

Israeli soldier killed in attack

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli soldier was killed and three others injured Sunday when commandos ambushed a convoy on the coastal highway in South Lebanon, the Israeli military command announced. The commandos said they opened fire with small arms on the Israeli convoy as it passed south of the town of Addoussieh, 12 kilometres south of Sidon. The command announced earlier that a 21-year-old soldier died of wounds suffered when a roadside bomb exploded last week as a convoy passed the villages of Qlaile, about eight kilometres south of Tyre. The deaths brought to 613 the number of Israelis killed in Lebanon since Israel invaded the country on June 6, 1982.

Jordan Times

An independent political daily published by the Jordanian Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية مستقلة تدارك من المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية للرأي

Aqaba gets new 'phone system'

AQABA (Petra) — A new electronic telephone switching system with a capacity of 40,000 lines was inaugurated Sunday by the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC). The new system, together with the 16,200 lines telephone network currently in its final stages, will provide residents of Aqaba with 5,000 telephone lines in its first stage. Work on the system started in late 1982 and cost JD 1.2 million. A sub-system is currently under construction on the southern coast of the Gulf of Aqaba for providing telephone service to the Aqaba industrial area. Aqaba dial code will be now 03 instead of 032 and subscribers numbers are now increased into six digits instead of four by adding 31 before existing numbers.

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Zaben returns after Arabsat launch

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Communications Mohammad Addouh Al Zaben returned to Amman Sunday after attending the launch of the French Ariane rocket from Kourou, French Guiana, that carried the first Arab communications satellite, Arabsat-1, into orbit. In a statement upon returning to Amman, the minister said the launch was a complete success and preparations are going ahead for testing the transmitting and receiving systems at the main tracking centre in Saudi Arabia and normal operations are expected in two to three months.

Top Canadian official due in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the Middle East Bureau at the Canadian Foreign Ministry, Mr. Robert Elliot, is due in Amman on Feb. 15 on a three-day official visit. During which he will meet senior Jordanian officials to discuss issues of bilateral interest and ties. Mr. Elliot will visit Lebanon, Syria and Iraq during his trip to the Middle East.

Taba talks to resume in Egypt

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli and Egyptian officials will meet in Ismailiya, Egypt, in the next few weeks to discuss their rival claims to the Red Sea beach strip of Taba, Israeli television said late Sunday. The talks will be held before a planned trip by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to Washington next month, it said. Last month Israel and Egypt held one round of negotiations on the 750-metre beach, which Israel kept when it returned the rest of the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt in 1982 under a peace treaty.

Kaunda, Mubarak begin talks

CAIRO (AP) — President Hosni Mubarak and visiting Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda met Sunday for discussions on African, Middle Eastern and bilateral issues, the Middle East News Agency said. The agency said the presidents conferred privately, while their delegations also held a round of talks. Mr. Kaunda arrived Saturday for a three-day official visit.

U.S. asks France not to sell nuclear reactor to Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — The United States has asked France to drop plans to sell a nuclear reactor to Israel, an Israeli newspaper said Sunday. The report in the Haaretz daily said Washington gave two reasons for denying Israel a nuclear power plant: its failure to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the strain the purchase would put on the country's ailing economy. Israel, struggling to cut inflation running at 450 per cent a year, was granted \$2.6 billion in U.S. aid last year.

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S. Lebanon resistance forces step up attacks Israeli bombing kills 3 children, woman

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Israeli warplanes bombed an area housing a building used by a Palestinian commando group in Lebanon's Bekaa Valley on Sunday, killing at least three children and a woman and injuring three others.

Witnesses quoted by the Associated Press said a woman and child were killed and the woman's husband was wounded when the Israeli planes hit a building used by the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). Damascus Radio said two children were killed in the attack and the Israeli planes were driven off by Syrian air defences.

The DFLP meanwhile said two of its fighters were injured in the attack, on what a DFLP spokesman described as a "rear administrative position" near the town of Taalabaya, 35 kilometres southeast of Beirut. Local reporters who visited the site said in telephone calls to Beirut that the building had been used by the DFLP but the DFLP men had left the building several days ago.

When the Israeli planes hit, the reporters said, a family of three was in the building. Kassim Mohammad Ghannem, 25, was badly wounded, the reporters said. The bodies of his wife and child were dug out of the rubble, wrapped in blankets and taken away by the Lebanese Red Cross, the reporters said.

In Tel Aviv, an Israeli spokesman said Israeli planes hit a one-storey building used as a headquarters and launching point for anti-Israeli attacks.

In Damascus, a spokesman for

than 100 resistance attacks in which the Israelis lost three dead and 27 injured, according to sources in the south. Another 75 attacks on pro-Israeli militias and collaborators killed 25 people and injured 18.

The intensified guerrilla warfare caused 45 deaths in South Lebanon in January, including 27 people killed by the Israelis, the sources said. The toll was double the December toll.

Attacks on the Israelis have surged again this month. Sixteen Israeli soldiers were injured in a 24-hour period this week.

Meanwhile, resistance forces Sunday kept up attacks on Israeli troops preparing to complete their pullout from Sidon in eight days' time.

Explosions rocked Sidon during the night as resistance forces attacked an Israeli position and fired rocket-propelled grenades in the air.

Lebanese security sources quoted by Reuters said three Israelis were wounded when a grenade hit a stronghold at 3.00 a.m. (0100 GMT), but there was no Israeli confirmation.

A stronghold on the coast road 15 kilometres south was hit during the night by a grenade that started a fire, eyewitnesses said. Ambulances rushed to the scene but there was no word on casualties.

Early Sunday the Israelis defused a roadside bomb at Sidon's eastern entrance, security sources said.

The Israelis have dismantled their 'Awali River' front line just north of Sidon and hauled equipment to new lines further south, ready to leave the Sidon area by Feb. 18 after a 2½ year occupation.

Settlements set back chances for peace, Egyptian leaders say

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two senior Egyptian officials have renewed their criticism of Israel's policy of building settlements in the occupied Arab territories and said the problem of settlements has dimmed prospects for peace in the Middle East.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told Reagan administration officials Saturday that Israel must take "trust measures" such as halting settlements in the occupied territories in order to advance the Middle East peace process, according to Egyptian embassy officials in Washington quoted by Reuters.

Mr. Abdul Meguid, who is in Washington in advance of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's visit to the U.S. next month, held separate talks Saturday with Vice President George Bush and Secretary of State George Shultz.

Mr. Abdul Meguid, who has urged the United States to resume an active role in the peace process, said the United States should initiate a dialogue with the Palestinians, the embassy sources said.

They also said he emphasised the need for the United States "to help the moderates (in the region) continue their efforts" toward peace.

Israel studying 'legal' expulsion of Palestinians

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel is investigating "legal measures" that would make it easier to deport Palestinians who carry out anti-Israeli attacks in the occupied territories, a top Israeli official in the West Bank said Sunday.

Shlomo Goren, in charge of "evil administration" in the territory, told Israeli Radio: "There are difficulties in deportation from a practical point of view. The subject is now being checked with the aim of making it easier to deport if and when we judge it necessary."

Right-wing politicians have urged the government to deport Palestinian activists, arguing that it is an "effective deterrent" to anti-Israeli attacks in the occupied territories.

The supreme court last week issued a temporary restraining order preventing the occupation forces from deporting three Pal-

estian activists from Dheish camp in the West Bank who feared they were about to be expelled.

Israel deported dozens of Palestinians to discourage anti-occupation activities in the years after Israel occupied the territories in the 1967 Middle East war but has dropped the practice in recent years.

"We have not cancelled it as a measure to the past and in the future if the situation demands it, we will not hesitate and we will deport when we view it as necessary," Goren said.

The issue of deportation has been fuelled in recent weeks by the death of two Israelis in separate attacks in the West Bank.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin has threatened to expel all Palestinian activists if the wave of anti-Israeli attacks continues.

Mandela rejects offer for conditional release

SOWETO, South Africa (AP) — Jailed black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela has defiantly rejected the white-led government's offer for conditional release, Mr. Mandela's daughter said Sunday.

"I cannot sell my birthright, nor am I prepared to sell the birthright of the people, to be free," Zindi Mandela quoted her father as saying.

Mr. Mandela, who was president of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) when he was jailed for life in 1964 on charges of planning sabotage, said he could not accept freedom while the ANC remained banned and unable to take part in the debate on the nation's future.

Mr. Mandela and the other blacks jailed with him in 1964 could go free if they pledged to renounce violence as a tool to end apartheid.

Mr. Mandela said in his reply, which his daughter said prison officials had tried to withhold, that his ANC had tried for decades to negotiate peacefully with the white government until the organisation was banned in 1960.

"It was only then, when all other forms of resistance were no longer open to us, that we turned to armed struggle," Mr. Mandela said.



ARAFAT ARRIVES: Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Amman Sunday on a several-day visit for talks with His Majesty King Hussein and senior Jordanian officials. He was received at the airport by Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salehman Arar (right), Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud and senior Foreign Ministry officials and senior PLO officials in Amman (Photo by Yousef Al-Ali).

Israeli Jewish-Arab delegation reports meeting PLO chairman

TEL AVIV (AP) — A six-member delegation of Israeli Jews and Arabs returned to Israel Sunday and told reporters they had met with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Uri Avnery, head of the Progressive List for Peace party, said the delegation had raised with Mr. Arafat the need for a "mutual cessation of violence" and sought an accounting of the release of Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

Delegation members said privately the meeting with Mr. Arafat took place in Tunisia.

Mohammad Miari, an Arab member of Israel's parliament, protested that police refused to allow the news conference to take place inside the terminal building at Ben Gurion airport.

Instead, the delegation held an impromptu news conference outside the building where about 30 angry demonstrators jostled the three Jewish and three Arab del-

egates and shouted at them. The protesters, who included airport workers, called out the names of former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Rabbi Meir Kahane, a U.S. immigrant and parliament member who advocates the expulsion of all Arabs from Israel and the occupied territories.

Police made no move to intervene.

"We met Mr. Arafat and had an open and frank exchange of views of developments in the Middle East," said Mr. Avnery, a former parliament member and publisher of a magazine.

"We raised the problem of the names and the fate of eight to nine Israeli soldiers missing in the war in Lebanon," he said. "Arafat promised us that he would provide us in the next few days with the names and details of what happened to them."

He said Mr. Arafat also stressed the PLO's interest "in peaceful

coexistence with the pro-peace forces in Israel." Both sides said they supported the idea of an international conference on Middle East peace under United Nations auspices with the participation of Israel and the PLO, he added.

"It is only the opposition to such a conference by Israel and the United States which is keeping the peace frozen," said Mr. Avnery, adding, "we also suggested a mutual cessation of violence."

Mr. Miari and the Jewish members of the delegation met with senior PLO officials in Geneva in 1983 after which Mr. Miari—who did not have parliamentary immunity at the time—spent nine days in jail and six months under town arrest. Jewish members who attended the Geneva meeting were not arrested.

Mr. Avnery said that on the basis of ruling from Israel's attorney general meetings with the PLO were not illegal.

Expatriates meeting to study national issues and solutions

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's economy, national income, development projects, manpower situation and problems facing Jordanian citizens working abroad are among topics to be discussed by the first-ever conference of Jordanian expatriates scheduled to be held here in August this year.

Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, Minister of Labour and Social Development, who is also chairman of the committee formed to prepare for the conference, Sunday described the contents of six working papers to be presented to the conference.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said the preparatory committee has also decided to allocate the responsibility of preparing the papers to various ministries, government departments and individuals.

He said the first paper will be on economy and will be prepared by the Central Bank of Jordan and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

He added the paper will contain

a description of Jordan's economic state of national income, sectoral contributions, development achievements, and the forthcoming national five-year plan.

The paper will also describe investment opportunities in agriculture, industry, commerce and services, and incentives offered to foreign capital and the expatriates' role in national development through technology and expertise transfer.

The second paper, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said, will be on the labour market and will be prepared by the Ministry of Labour and Social Development.

The paper will describe Jordan's labour market, its characteristics, development, volume of labour force, movement of labour force, policy towards migration, labour unions and women's role within the labour force, he said.

The paper will also explain Jordan's role in providing Arab countries with qualified labour, proper use of work force, the import

of foreign labour and Jordan's labour legislation, training and social security, the minister added.

The third paper will be prepared by a Jordanian expatriate and will focus on problems facing Jordanian expatriates abroad, Dr. Abdul Jabbar said.

The fourth paper will be prepared also by a team of expatriates on problems that face them when they return home either for a visit or for good. It will deal with customs handling at entry points, locating proper housing, investment of savings and the integration of children in schools, he said.

The fifth paper will be prepared jointly by various parties and will suggest different solutions to expatriate problems and areas of possible cooperation between them and their country, according to the minister.

The paper will also suggest means to establish and maintain links among Jordanians abroad and between them and their country through the establishment of clubs, publications, tourist visits and the teaching of Arabic.

Car bombs kill 7 in Tripoli and 2 in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A car bomb killed seven people and injured about 20 in the north Lebanese port city of Tripoli and another killed two people and wounded a woman in west Beirut.

Security and hospital sources quoted by Reuters said the Tripoli car bomb explosion occurred outside a Muslim religious centre as militiamen were trying to push the vehicle away.

Among the dead were two fighters of the Islamic Unification Movement (Ikhwan) who were pushing the car, which they suspected might contain a bomb, towards an empty lot.

The Renault 12 car, containing an estimated 30 kilograms of explosives, blew up in front of *Tawheed* premises on the second floor of a three-storey building in Tripoli.

The building and two others nearby, including a school, were badly damaged, and glass was shattered over a wide area.

A few moments before the blast the street had been full of playing children, but the area had been mainly cleared by *Tawheed* militiamen who had become suspicious of the car parked 50 metres from their office.

Tawheed, a Sunni Muslim fundamentalist group which has battled the pro-Syrian Alawite militia for control of Tripoli, accused the right-wing Falangist Party of planning the car bomb — the second directed at *Tawheed* this month.

The first exploded on Feb. 1 outside a mosque packed with *Tawheed* militiamen, killing at least 10 people and wounding 50, both Muslims and Christians.

Sheikh Saeed Shaaban, *Tawheed*'s leader and one of Lebanon's fiercest fundamentalist preachers, blamed the first bomb on Zionists and "their Falangist pupils."

Sheikh Shaaban is now on a visit to Tehran, but *Tawheed* Sunday issued a statement saying: "We have received the second message from the Falangists."

Prime Minister Rashid Karami, who was at his Tripoli residence when the bomb went off, issued a statement blaming Israeli "bribees" and said the blast was linked to Israel's plans to start pulling out of southern Lebanon by Feb. 18.

"It was as if it was planned and required," he said. "Hiring hands are at work among the peaceful and innocent sons of this people."

All of this is coupled with the liberation process and Israel's evacuation of the lands it occupies," he added without explanation.

The bomb in Beirut was in the Verdun neighbourhood of mostly Muslim west Beirut. Police said the explosive was placed in a Datsun car parked at the side of the street. The driver and his cousin were killed when the bomb went off about 10 a.m. (0800 GMT), according to state radio and the private "Voice of Lebanon" radio.

Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said the explosion occurred as the driver was trying to start the car. The other cars were destroyed, windows were blown out of nearby houses and a woman in a nearby vehicle was injured.

Radio reports said the blast did not appear to have been aimed at nearby buildings but was intended to destroy the vehicle.

Two suspects arrested in Springer abduction case

CHUR, Switzerland (R) — Swiss police said Sunday that two West Germans had been arrested in connection with the abduction last month of Sven Axel Springer, the grandson of prominent West German publisher Axel Springer.

They said the two were former pupils of the Lyceum Alpinum in Zuoz, near Chur, the exclusive boarding school from which Springer disappeared on Jan. 21.

A ransom of 15 million marks (\$3 million) had been demanded for Springer's freedom but he was released at Zurich airport after three days captivity before any money had been paid.

The two men — one was arrested in Munich, West Germany, on Friday and the other in Zurich

Saturday — had admitted kidnapping Springer, a police statement said.

The arrest in Munich came after one of the kidnappers had sought 110,000 marks (\$35,000) from the family because he said he had helped Springer escape.

He had arranged to collect the money in a suitcase hidden behind a dustbin in Munich and was arrested once he had picked up the cash, the police statement said.

Police said that after Springer's release, a man speaking mostly English had telephoned repeatedly to Springer's relatives saying he wanted the 200,000 marks (\$63,000) he had been promised for securing the young man's freedom.

Springer, 19, had told police that one of his abductors had suddenly turned liberator and handed him a gun, offering to help him escape in return for the money.

By last Friday the kidnapper had reduced his demand to 110,000 marks and said that a friend of Springer was to go to a hotel in Munich's city centre where further instructions would be given.

It was arranged by telephone that a suitcase containing the money would be put behind a dustbin in a small street.

The 22-year-old West German put up no resistance after he was arrested hurrying away with the money. Police said that investigations so far showed the man

arrested was the same man who had called and who had been one of Springer's abductors.

Statements he had made tallied with those of Springer, police said. Springer's missing watch had been also found in a rented Mercedes the detained man was using.

The police gave no information on the arrest in Switzerland Saturday. The man held in Munich had not given away any details about the other kidnapper, the statement said.

In West Germany, authorities are bailing the man on suspicion of "abduction with extortion."

The second suspected kidnapper is being held in custody in the Swiss canton of Graubunden, of which Chur is the capital.

Fahd expected to call for new U.S. Mideast role

WASHINGTON (R) Saudi Arabia's King Fahd makes his first state visit to the United States this week ready to add his voice to Arab appeals for a more active U.S. role in the search for a Middle East peace.

But as the administration prepares a red-carpet welcome, officials are making clear they do not believe this is the right time for a new high-profile mission in the region.

Despite what they see as encouraging signs, they note that the key ingredient to movement in the peace process — an Arab partner to negotiate with Israel — is still missing.

The long-stalled peace process is expected to be the focus of King Fahd's talks with President Reagan and other U.S. officials after a ceremonial arrival at the White House on Monday morning.

His talks are also sure to include the questions of arms sales to the

kingdom. The Saudis are seeking air defence equipment including 40 F-15 fighters to add to the 60 they bought in 1978.

But the Reagan administration has said major new arms deals in the Middle East are being frozen until after a four to six week study analysing U.S. security strategy in the region.

King Fahd's five-day visit is the first by a Saudi monarch since King Faisal came here in May 1971. But King Fahd, as crown prince, was in Washington in 1977 and met Mr. Reagan briefly at the 1981 North-South summit at Cancun, Mexico.

He will be followed here next month by Egyptian President

Hosni Mubarak, whose Foreign Minister, Esmat Abdul Maguid, in a preparatory visit this week, urged Washington to play a "reinvigorated and vigorous role" in the peace process.

A senior U.S. official who briefed reporters on King Fahd's visit said the king shared a widely-held Arab view that, following Mr. Reagan's reelection, it was time for a more active U.S. role.

"Our impression is that the Saudis do see this as... an historic moment," the official said. "Perhaps it is, but whether or not it turns out to be historic... depends upon their own sense of commitment and what they are prepared to put into the effort to get peace talks started."

He said he did not believe the Arab states had unrealistic expectations but "if they expect a bold new American initiative, I don't think that's what we see the situation as calling for."



DIMINISHING PRESENCE: An Israeli tank and an armoured personnel carrier keep watch Sunday on the outskirts of the South Lebanese port city of Sidon which, under a three-stage withdrawal plan, Israel plans to evacuate by Feb. 18 (AP wirephoto)

Syrian leader vows to fight aggression

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad pledged Sunday to fight aggression as he voted in a nationwide poll to reelect him for a third seven-year term.

Mr. Assad, president since 1971, was the only candidate. "Our people will continue to raise the sword of struggle against all forms of aggression, greed and invasion," he said.

"We will continue to defend our borders and our rights are restored," Mr. Assad said as cheering supporters carried him on their shoulders.

"It is Syria's destiny to defend

itself and its nation and to repel the danger threatening the Arab Nation," he said.

Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam said after voting: "Today's yes for comrade Assad means a vote for Syria's nationalist and progressive policies and a vote against imperialism, Zionism and reaction."

Interior Ministry officials said voting was "going well in a democratic atmosphere throughout the country."

Western diplomats said Mr. Assad, 54, was expected to better

the 90 per cent vote he won in 1978.

Polling opened at seven a.m. for 12 hours, with 5.3 million people aged 18 or over eligible to vote. The election result will be announced in the People's Council (parliament) Monday.

The two-week election campaign reached a climax Saturday when thousands of people, including Prime Minister Abdul Rafiq al-Khaddam, marched to the presidential palace chanting "we sacrifice our souls and blood for you, Hafez."

Drought relief cash donations not reaching Ethiopia, official says

ADDIS ABABA (R) — The Ethiopian government is investigating why substantial amounts of cash raised in Europe and North America for drought relief are not reaching the country, Foreign Minister Gashu Wolde told Reuters in an interview.

He said that while aid in kind like grain, clothing and equipment was being delivered in generous amounts, the cash trickling in did not tally with the reports of funds raised in the West.

"It seems Ethiopia is overwhelmed by a huge inflow of cash. Not only a little money is trickling in, compared to (the) reports of the spontaneous and continuous flow of donations (from the West)," he said.

"The money is simply not here in sufficient quantities to come to the aid of the Ethiopian people," he said in the interview Saturday, adding that his government was investigating. He did not elaborate.

Ethiopia's leader Melesse Zenbe Dargie announced on radio and television Saturday night a national plan to fight the drought which he said was blighting the lives of 7.5 million of his countrymen.

It included a ban on imports of luxury goods, including cars and textiles, a tightening of fuel rationing laws, donations from Ethiopians who had jobs, and a channelling of export earnings towards famine relief.

Mr. Gashu called the big Western response to Ethiopia's plight a gesture "unmatched perhaps in the last century" and appealed for fresh help to avoid repetitions of the disaster that has struck Ethiopia for the second time in just over a decade.

About a quarter of a million people perished in a drought in the early 1970s and relief workers here have said the death toll in the current one could be even higher.

"Continuous and generous assistance by the public and NGOs (Non-Governmental Aid Organizations) is essential," he said.

Ethiopia's people, and government have been deeply touched by the worldwide concern, but it was a continuous problem, he said of the drought and famine.

Dealing with the famine relief funds, the foreign minister would not specify what proportion of the cash was not coming through or which organisations might be responsible. He said earlier that some unspecified organisations were squandering famine relief money, some over-refurbishing their headquarters.

Col. Mengistu, making a rare public appearance at a rally in the capital, said Sunday that Ethiopians must shun luxury and join in fighting the drought.

"Genuine patriots and revolutionaries must live up to the challenge of relieving drought-afflicted compatriots from their misery and suffering as well as to

help make them self-supporting citizens," the official Ethiopian News Agency quoted him as saying.

Ethiopia would not remain dependent on foreign relief handouts for its survival, he told the crowd.

"Luxury was intolerable at a time when millions of Ethiopians were suffering from hunger and deprivation, he added.

"We should struggle to build a bright future," he said.

He said a controversial scheme to resettle some 1.5 million people from the parched north, where anti-government rebels are active, to fertile western areas was an extension of humanitarian aid.

Western governments have balked at helping with the scheme as they say it is long-term development and not immediate relief. They argue that resettlement does not qualify for quick help with no strings attached as drought and famine do.

"Immediate relief is good and we are thankful for it but we don't want to be beggars all the time... We are a proud nation and we want to be self-sufficient," Mr. Gashu said.

He denied recent Western press reports of people being forcibly moved from drought areas to new resettlement camps.

Earlier, United Nations officials told reporters that Health Minister Gizaw Tsehay had told them there was no cholera in famine

Cyprus likely to dominate Howe's talks in Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Cyprus is likely to dominate talks here this week between British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Turkish Foreign Minister Vahit Halefoglu, diplomats said.

Sir Geoffrey, the most senior British politician to visit Ankara since Turkey's 1980 military coup, arrives from Bulgaria Monday night and will see Mr. Halefoglu on Tuesday.

He is also due to meet President Kenan Evren, Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and other officials before leaving for home on Wednesday.

Britain, with two military bases on Cyprus, and Turkey both hope to see fresh talks started on the island's future between President Spyros Kyprianou, leader of the Greek-Cypriot community, and Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş.

The two countries, with Greece, are guarantors of the island's 1960 independence from Britain.

Turkey, which invaded the northern third of Cyprus following a short-lived pro-Greek coup on the

island in 1974, supports the breakaway state of northern Cyprus proclaimed by Mr. Denktaş in 1983.

Other topics likely to be discussed during Sir Geoffrey's visit here are Turkey's relations with the European Community, East-West relations and bilateral issues, diplomats said.

These issues include British efforts to sell Turkey the Tornado multi-role combat aircraft, produced in cooperation with Italy and West Germany, and win a new order for its own Rapier anti-aircraft missiles, already supplied to Turkey.

British diplomats said they believe Turkey wants the Tornado, but that British government objections to granting an export credit guarantee had so far prevented the deal.

Another potential deal is construction of a second bridge across the Bosphorus in Istanbul. The first bridge was built by the British firm Cleveland Bridge, which hopes to get the imminent contract for the second.

Herzog flies to Europe

TEL AVIV (AP) — President Chaim Herzog took off Sunday for a five-day visit to Western Europe where he will address the European Parliament on Tuesday.

His first destination was Luxembourg, said his spokesman Ami Gluska. Mr. Herzog was also to visit Strasbourg, France and Brussels before returning to Israel on Friday.

Before taking off in an Israeli-made "Westwind" jet from Kefar Saba Airport in the occupied West Bank just north of Jerusalem at 1200 (1000 GMT), Mr. Herzog said his talks with officials of the European Community would focus on threats to Israel's mainstay citrus exports to Western Europe.

Palace denies tough Gemayel statement

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese newspapers Sunday quoted President Amin Gemayel as accusing sectarian leaders of plundering state revenues and contributing to economic collapse but the presidential palace said he had been misquoted.

Hours after publication of what appeared to be Mr. Gemayel's hardest-hitting public comments yet on Lebanon's political and economic crisis, a palace communique said the reports were "inaccurate and partly wrong."

Two newspapers quoted Mr. Gemayel as telling parliamentarians on Wednesday that ministers in the "national unity" government were ignoring his demands to stop rival sectarian militias siphoning off state revenues.

He said the treasury's main sources of income from port customs dues, utility payments and fuel taxes were siphoned off by militias or were uncollectable because of "anarchy" in mainly-Muslim west Beirut and lack of government control in militia-held mountain

areas.

The reported remarks came amid an economic crisis caused by the collapse of the Lebanese pound, which has fallen more than 50 per cent already this year, to 14 to the dollar from nine.

Mr. Gemayel was reported to have said that regaining control of militia-run ports and cutting utilities to those who did not pay their bills depended on a decision by the cabinet, some of whose members are militia leaders.

"These measures are not difficult but we need courage from the ministers who sit at the table with us... The leaders have not had the courage needed," he was quoted as saying.

The palace's partial denial confirmed Gemayel had discussed the economic crisis with parliamentarians last Wednesday and did not say which of his remarks were wrongly reported.

Former Minister Raymond Edde last week asked Mr. Gemayel and Prime Minister Rashid Karami why \$1 billion was spent on U.S. arms purchases at the start

of Mr. Gemayel's presidency. Blaming the financial crisis on the purchases, Mr. Edde said in a statement published in the press: "The Lebanese people have entered bankruptcy with some of them suffering from starvation and have the full right to ask for these clarifications."

Mr. Gemayel, however, was reported as saying the drain on state revenues by militias and public theft was causing the crisis.

He said the army was only five per cent operative when he took power in September 1982 and he had tried to build it up as a security force, "not to implicate it in internal battles."

Since February 1984, when some units split on sectarian lines during battles against opposition militias, huge quantities of equipment had been stolen and some sent to Druze-held areas.

Some 700 trucks had been stolen and the army was now renting trucks. "We now have only 30 or 40 per cent of our military equipment," Mr. Gemayel was quoted as saying.

Spanish TV cuts interview with King Hassan

MADRID (R) — Spain's state-controlled television (TVE) cut an interview with King Hassan of Morocco after a preview including remarks on his country's sovereignty claims over two Spanish enclaves provoked a nationalist outcry.

Saturday night's news programme Weekly Report omitted King Hassan's statement that Morocco would claim the North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla if Spain recovers the British colony of Gibraltar across the straits.

In the segment shown on Friday, the monarch also said the Soviet Union would not accept control of the strategic western entrance to the Mediterranean by a single member of NATO.

The preview sparked a storm of

protest by the enclaves' nationalist groups. Melilla Senator Miguel Roldan, of the ruling Socialist Party, filed a suit against TVE News Director Eric Sopena accusing him of violating the constitution.

There was no comment from the government and veteran Communist leader Santiago Carrillo said Morocco had the same right to the two cities that Spain had to Gibraltar.

TVE news executive Ramon Colon told reporters Saturday night that the king's remarks would not be repeated because they had already been shown and said the move was not due to pressure.

In Rabat, the Moroccan News Agency MAP issued the text of the king's interview in which he

said: "If Spain recovers Gibraltar, and I hope it does so as soon as possible, we will not be the only ones to ask that Ceuta and Melilla return to Morocco."

"Many international powers will not accept that Spain control both sides of the straits."

The king said Morocco would not adopt a "go home" policy towards Spaniards in the enclaves. There were numerous foreign residents in Morocco already and he saw no reason why Spaniards could not also stay and even vote in local elections, he added.

Spain joined NATO in 1982 and has a referendum on staying in scheduled for February 1986, a month after the date on which it hopes to become a European Community member.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1413 KHz	
MAIN CHANNEL	
17:00	Koran
17:10	Cartoon
17:35	Children's Programme
17:50	Children's Programme
18:00	Children's Programme
18:40	Local Programme
19:00	Programme Review
19:35	News Programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:10	Arabic Series
21:00	Arabic Series
21:35	Arabic Series
22:00	Arabic Series
23:00	News in Arabic
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00	French Programme
19:00	News in French
19:15	Sport Magazine
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Maggi Briggs
21:00	Health Beat
21:10	Manchester Park
22:00	News in English
23:10	The Yellow Rose
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsweek
07:45	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Pop Session
10:45	Pop Session
11:00	Pop Session
11:15	Pop Session
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24:00	Pop Session

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* Design and Industry exhibition at Yarmouk University Gymnasium 9:00-12:00 and 14:00 to 17:00 upto 16th February.	
* An exhibition of books and publications on the teaching of English, organised by the British Council, at the University of Jordan Language Centre.	
* Plastic Arts Exhibition at University of Jordan, Faculty of Student Affairs.	
LECTURE	
* Appropriate Solar Energy for Developing Nations by Dr. Richard Williams at American Centre, 6:30 p.m.	
FILM	
* Der Starke Ferdinand (English subtitles) at Goethe Institute, 8:00 p.m.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre .. tel. 6610267	
American Centre .. 44371	
British Council .. 36147-R	
French Cultural Centre .. 37009	
Goethe Institute .. 41993	
Soviet Cultural Centre .. 42025	
Spanish Cultural Centre .. 24049	
Turkish Cultural Centre .. 39777	
Haya Arts Centre .. 665195	
Husseini Youth City .. 667181	
V.W.C.A. .. 41793	
Y.W.M.C.A. .. 664251	
Amman Municipal Library .. 36111	
University of Jordan Library .. 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal Luwlabdeh. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.	
Martyrs' Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.	
Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Hotel, 7:30 p.m.	
Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 1:30 p.m.	
Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.	
Royal Automobile Club. Jabal Amman, Eighth Circle. Tel. 815251.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 24590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwlabdeh, 37440.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757.	
Church of the Annunciation (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23541.	
Church of the Redeemer (Greek Orthodox) Jabal Amman, 23583.	
Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.	
St. Sprohian Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.	
Amman International Church (Interdenominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shmeisani, 816534.	
PRAYER TIMES	
04:57 (Sunrise) Doha	
06:23 (Sunrise) Doha	
11:59 (Friday and official holidays) Doha	
17:18 (Friday and official holidays) Doha	
18:44 (Friday and official holidays) Doha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 532550, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

09:30	Aqaba (RJ)
09:45	Kuwait (RJ)
09:45	Cairo (RJ)
09:55	Muscat, Bahrain (RJ)
09:55	Dhahran (RJ)
10:00	Doha, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20	Beirut (RJ)
10:20	Cairo (MS)
10:50	Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
11:00	Jeddah, Medina (SV)
11:00	Kuwait (RJ)
11:00	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
11:00	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
11:00	Cairo (RJ)
11:10	Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES

05:45	Cairo (RJ)
07:00	Beirut (RJ)
07:15	Aqaba (RJ)
08:45	Beirut (MEA)
11:00	New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:30	Vienna, Chicago (RJ)
14:30	Cairo (RJ)
14:40	Kuwait (RJ)
14:40	Jeddah, Medina (SV)
17:25	Istanbul, Belgrade (RJ)
19:30	Kuwait (RJ)
19:30	Damascus, Larnaca (RJ)
19:40	Dhahran (RJ)
19:40	Doha, Muscat (RJ)
20:00	Bahrain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:15	Dubai (RJ)
20:45	Cairo (RJ)
21:10	Baghdad (RJ)
23:20	Cairo (MS)

MARITIME TRAFFIC

Regular-line ships docking at Aqaba port:

- M'rab
- Ibn Al Mu'taz
- Skulpur
- Majojo Maru
- Akiya
- Rukhshany
- Kajitans

Amin Kassar and Sons Company, Tel: 22324 (six lines) if your service.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local selling rates in J.S.

Belgian franc	63.5/ 63.9
Dutch guilder	112/ 112.7
Egyptian pound	306.7/ 310.3
French franc	41.5/ 41.7
Iraqi dinar	347.4/ 355
Italian lire (for 100)	20.5/ 20.7
Japanese yen (for 100)	159/ 158.5
Kuwaiti dinar	1336.3/ 1341.7
Lebanese lira	32.3/ 33.3
Omani rial	1183.3/ 1191.7
Qatari rial	112.28/ 113.8
Saudi riyal	11.5/ 115.4
Swedish crown	44.8/ 45
Swiss franc	148.3/ 149.2
Syrian lira	33.2/ 34.2
UAE dirham	112.2/ 112.9
U.K. sterling pound	454.1/ 456.8
U.S. dollar	411.4/ 413.5
W. German mark	126.5/ 127.3

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be fair, with light and variable winds and scattered medium and high clouds. In Aqaba, it will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Low/high temperature in deg. C.

Amman	31/8
Aqaba	9/23
Deserts	3/19
Jordan Valley	10/22

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 26 per cent, Aqaba 23 per cent.

Salt kindergarten fire injures 12 children

SALT (Petra) — Twelve children aged between four and six years at a kindergarten in Salt suffered first and second degree burns Sunday when the room they were in caught fire. The fire was caused by a kerosene heater placed in the children's room.

A Civil Defence Department spokesman said that most of the burns were on the hands and faces and that all the children are now undergoing treatment at the local

hospital. The civil defence fire engines were called out to fight the fire and rescue the children from the kindergarten which is run by the Salt Islamic Society.

The children are being treated at the government hospital which was visited by Health Minister Kamel Ajlouni. The minister enquired after the victims and was told that their conditions were satisfactory.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Decree approves QAJWF trustees

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Sunday approving the appointments to the board of trustees of the Queen Alia Jordan Welfare Fund (QAJWF). The new trustees are: Dr. Hanna Odeh, Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, Dr. Abdullah Nsour, Dr. Rajai Muasher, Mrs. Inam Al Mufri, Mr. Walid Asfour, Mr. Ali Ghandour, Mr. Muner Al Durah, Mr. Saad Al Tal, Dr. Zaki Ayoubi, and Mr. Hassan Mango.

Dead Sea project gets the go-ahead

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Sunday approved the establishment of an integrated tourist resort at the Dead Sea. An announcement following a regular session said that a ministerial committee has been set up to conduct a feasibility study on the project, as submitted by the private sector.

Mayor patronises embassy ceremony

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Mayor Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh Sunday inaugurated a ground-breaking ceremony for the construction of the embassy of the Republic of Korea's new chancery, ambassador's residence and a residential building for its staff members. The project, scheduled to be completed by August 1986, is on an area of 6,250 square metres and will include recreation facilities such as a swimming pool and a tennis court. The building will be a blend of Jordanian and Korean styles.

IAEA delegation arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of experts from the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived here Sunday on a visit lasting several days.

Abu Taleb receives Italian military team

AMMAN (Petra) — Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Fathi Abu Taleb Sunday received a visiting Italian delegation from the Italian Academy of Defence Studies, led by General Mario Rossi. He briefed the delegation on Jordan's defence policy and discussed with them a number of bilateral military issues.



GOOD FOOD GUIDE: Saturday evening marked the inaugural gathering of the Amman Diners Club, whose sole aim is to dine out in Amman elegantly, cheaply and well, awarding each restaurant stars for quality, quantity, presentation and atmosphere. Their first venue was the Hisham Hotel and pictured above are the groups founder members together with Colin McGregor, the food and beverage manager of the Hisham Hotel.

U.S. professor discusses solar energy applications

By Sa'ad G. Hattar
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering at the California State University Richard Williams Sunday delivered lectures on "Solar Energy Applications and Development at the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS)".

Dr. Williams, who is currently on a lecturing tour in Jordan, Syria and Egypt, sponsored by the American government, focused on solar water heating and cooling systems, domestic water, passive solar heating and cooling, standards and the latest solar energy developments in the United States.

Solar systems

During his talk Dr. Williams named several types and systems of solar energy: The thermosiphon solar water heater: a pump system with differential thermal expansion for freezing and the gravity drain system which provides proof freeze protection. The thermosiphon system which is largely used for domestic applications comprises an insulated water storage tank, solar collectors, valves and heaters. This system has two shut-off valves at the upper and lower headers of the solar collectors which drain water from the solar collectors in maintenance or leakage while the water storage tank remains full of hot water for the consumer to use.

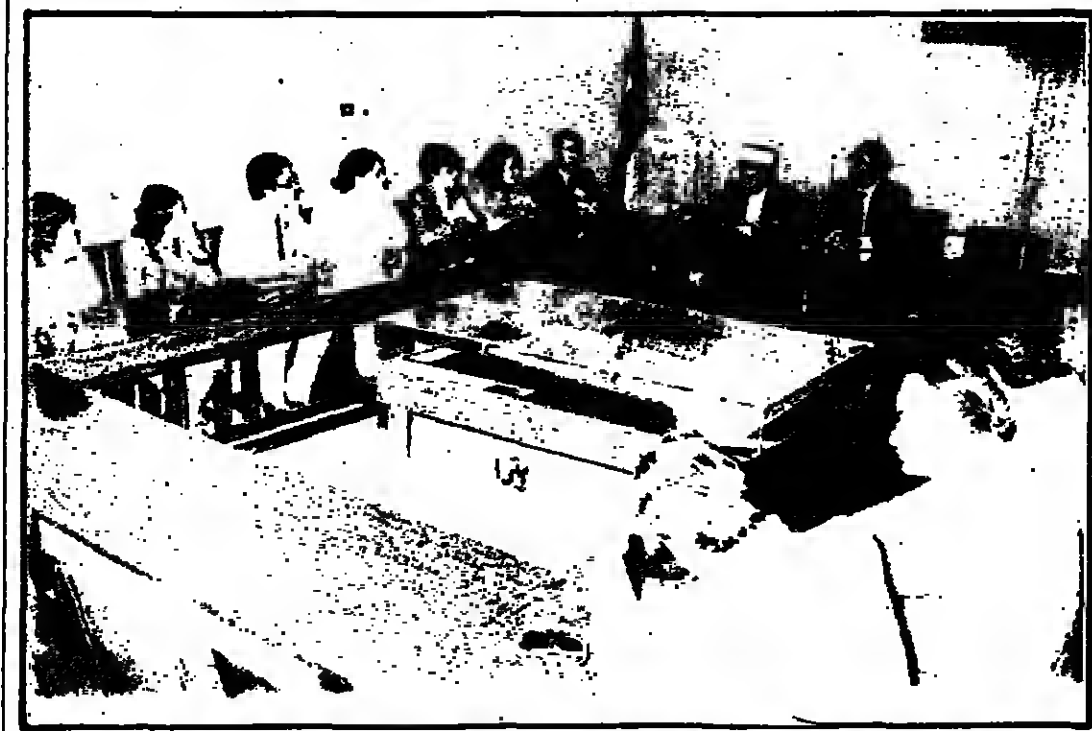
Another feature is a temperature and pressure relief valve and a tempering valve to merge

hot and cold water in an adjustment to give suitable water temperature, Dr. Williams explained. The pump system, which is used in large projects and multi-storey buildings, comprises one or more storage tanks, solenoid valves for draining the system's water in case of freezing and a differential thermostat. The third type is the gravity drain system which is freeze proof and has the advantage of reducing the thermal inertia in the collectors, thus increasing efficiency and it is also known as the basic solar heating system for domestic use.

According to Dr. Williams, the best metals for the absorption plate of solar energy collectors are copper and steel. He said that aluminium should be avoided because of its negative effects on the system. Dr. Williams also said that using black chrome as cover for solar collectors increases the efficiency by four per cent over using black coating paint or black nickel.

Dr. Williams also recommended the use of low ironed glass for its high absorption efficiency and high tensile strength. Discussing whether to use two sheets of glass parallel to each other, he said that unless the two sheets are completely parallel, water will promptly lose its heat. The Yarmouk University has built a system with two sheets of glass using rivets to maintain an equal distance between the sheets and this gained 82 per cent efficiency, according to a Yarmouk University representative attending the lecture.

As for the passive form of applying solar energy, Dr. Williams



University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali (right at head of table) Sunday addresses a session at the Yarmouk University Liaison Office (Petra photo) conference to discuss the Civil Status Law during a

Jordan faces enormous challenges, Majali tells conference participants

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali said here Sunday that Jordan faces an enormous challenge, far greater than its size, and this is represented in the Israeli military occupation of the West Bank and the Zionist drive to obliterate Arab culture and build settlements on land seized from Arabs who have been forcibly expelled from their Palestinian homeland.

Addressing participants in the Civil Status Law seminar, currently being held at Yarmouk University Liaison Office, Dr. Majali said that Jordan is striving to confront these challenges through well planned education and training programmes.

Jordan's main industry is education and quality training, something which has enabled the country to export 15 per cent of its total population to work in other Arab states, Dr. Majali said.

During the meeting Dr. Majali spoke about the development of the University of Jordan and its programmes and future plans. He also outlined Jordan's history and its economic, social and educational endeavours since the country's foundation.

Earlier, participants in the seminar held another session to review working papers on the status of

women vis-a-vis the Arab family, and on marriage and divorce issues.

Early marriages

Among the main speakers at Sunday's session was former Information Minister Laila Sharaf who called for the introduction of a law prohibiting the marriage of girls at a very early age because, she said, women should have sufficient chance to obtain sound education first. Mrs. Sharaf spoke in particular against marrying-off 15-year-old girls who, she said, definitely would not be in a position to raise a family.

Symposium tackles industrial safety

IRBID (Petra) — A five-day symposium on occupational health and safety opened Sunday at the general health faculty of Yarmouk University. University President Adnan Badran made the opening speech in which he reviewed the hazards to which man is exposed while handling different industrial materials or equipment and stressed the need to introduce measures to ensure improved safety.

Yarmouk University has established a general health faculty

to turn out trained personnel in health affairs and to serve the local community, Dr. Badran said.

Another speaker at the opening session was Dr. Walid Al Khatib, acting dean of the faculty of general health, who referred to the progress Jordan is witnessing in industrial development which he said, requires proper measures to cope with the growth of industry and its dangers. Hundreds of factories big and small are springing up everywhere and thousands of Jordanians employed in them are

exposed to various occupational hazards, he said. Therefore, society should find proper means for protecting workers against possible danger, he added.

The symposium will discuss issues pertaining to factory work, occupational hazards and ways of protecting workers against danger, diseases which are caused through exposure to certain materials in factories and other related topics. Several physicians and specialists from Iraq and Jordan will give lectures during the symposium.

Committee prepares study for narcotics conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The National Jordanian Committee on Narcotics has prepared a report on drug trafficking and addiction in Jordan and will submit the study to an international meeting on narcotics due to open in Vienna Monday, Colonel Hashem Al Qaisi, director of the anti-narcotics department said here Sunday.

Speaking upon his departure for the Austrian capital, Col. Qaisi said that the Jordanian report reviews the achievements of his department since its establishment in 1980. The anti-narcotics department has established a specialised centre for the treatment of

drug addicts in 1983 in Amman and intends to open other similar centres in Jordan later on, Col. Qaisi said.

He said that he will also submit to the international meeting a working plan which is designed to benefit from United Nations financial appropriations allocated for conducting studies on drug addiction in Arab countries and training personnel on combating addiction. The participants in the Vienna meeting will discuss the implementation of international agreements on narcotics and laying down a world strategy for controlling drugs, Col. Qaisi said.

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Energy developments

Speaking about the recent solar energy developments in the United States, he said that they have been applying the photo-voltaic system in solar cells to generate electricity directly from the sun. The photo voltaic system is used in manufacturing small electric devices, calculators, mini computers and for domestic applications. The United States has also built a large 10 million watt electrical plant and is in the process of building a similar plant which can produce electricity at the same cost as nuclear plants, Dr. Williams told the Jordan Times that using solar energy in particular is beneficial in the long run and mainly if it is used in small electrical machines with the photo voltaic method.

Photo voltaic cells have been used in Jordan within a joint venture between the RSS and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation (GTZ), which aims at developing the capabilities of system design and application of a decentralized mini photovoltaic system (stand alone) suitable for applications by individual homes and clinics in remote and isolated areas to provide the minimum basic energy needs in the form of electric lighting, educational television, emergency telephones and small clinic refrigerators.

Dr. Williams will deliver another lecture Monday at the American Centre on the appropriate energy technologies for developing nations. The lecture will begin at 4 p.m.

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Planning minister signs agreement with Kuwaiti fund

AFESD loans KD 6.45m for agricultural project, earthquake rescue system

KUWAIT (Petra) — The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) has granted Jordan two loans worth a total of 6.45 million Kuwaiti Dinars to help the Kingdom carry out two vital projects, according to two agreements signed in Kuwait Sunday.

One of these agreements, worth six million Kuwaiti Dinars, is for financing an irrigation project in the central Jordan Valley region. This project aims to increase agricultural production in this region and is part of a plan to make the country self-sufficient in certain types of crops by 1988. The Ministry of Planning and AFESD signed an initial agreement for this loan in November 1984.

The project entails extending irrigation pipes and water to 55,000 dunums of land in order to increase the total cultivable land by 33 per cent. It also entails ir-

rigating an additional 5,000 dunums at Wadi Rajeb and the central Jordan Valley regions to compensate for water which will be pumped to Amman and other areas for drinking purposes. The agreement also provides for conducting feasibility studies on developing Wadi Araba.

Earthquake rescue

The second loan agreement worth 450,000 Kuwaiti Dinars is to help develop Jordan's seismological department and to help reduce possible human and material losses in earthquakes through providing guidelines on the proper methods of building. The agreement also provides for improving methods for rescue operations and recruiting trained personnel to carry out that task.

The loan agreements were signed for Jordan by Dr. Abdullah Nsour, the minister of planning, who arrived in Kuwait Saturday and for AFESD by the chairman of its board of directors.

Founded in 1968, AFESD is based in Kuwait with an authorised capital of 400 million Kuwaiti Dinars. The fund aims to promote economic and social development in Arab countries through financing development projects with priority given to pan-Arab enterprises and joint ventures through the encouragement of private and public funds in Arab development projects and through the provision of technical assistance.

Swiss government, bank consortium to grant JD 9m development loan

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A consortium of Swiss banks and the Swiss government will grant Jordan a loan of 60 million Swiss francs (JD 9m) to help the Kingdom finance the purchase of Swiss goods and services needed for development projects being carried out by the public and private sectors in Jordan. Agreement has been initiated on the loan here during a visit to Jordan by a delegation representing the banks and the Swiss government.

Swiss embassy trade officer Sulaiman Al Far told the Jordan Times that third of the loan to be supplied by the Swiss government will be interest-free and repayable over 25 years with 10 years grace period while the rest will be provided by the consortium at 6.5 per cent interest, with a three-year grace period and repayable over 10 years.

According to Mr. Far, the delegation led by Nicolas Imboden,

director of the financial department at the Swiss Ministry of Public Economy, spent 10 days in Jordan visiting projects and holding talks with officials from the ministries of planning, finance, industry and trade and the Central Bank of Jordan.

The delegation, which included three members and joined in Amman by Swiss Ambassador Andre Louis Vallon and Mr. Far, also met with Minister of Industry and Trade Jawad Al Anani, Min-

ister of Transport Farhi Obeid and Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour, Mr. Far said.

The delegation, which has now left for home, also visited the Jordan Valley to inspect agricultural projects, the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company in Aqaba, the Railway Corporation in Ma'an, the Al Hussein Thermal Power Station in Zarqa, the Jordan Electricity Authority and the Pension Fund.

WAJ plans water projects to curb pollution of reserves

AMMAN (Petra) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) plans to carry out a sewerage project in Azraq to protect underground water resources from pollution. A WAJ spokesman said that an agreement will be signed Monday for preparing a feasibility study, designing and supervising the implementation of the sewerage system together with a wastewater treatment plant at both the northern and southern parts of Azraq, north east of Zarqa.

According to the spokesman, another agreement, also to be signed Monday, is for preparing a feasibility study and designs of sewerage systems and wastewater treatment plants

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Jordan Times

THE LATEST Iraqi offensive into Iranian territory came as a surprise to us and to Tehran following two and a half years of static defence adopted by Baghdad in the face of repeated Iranian abortive attacks. Baghdad's static defence policy adopted over the past 30 months prompted many military observers and international strategic institutes to maintain that it encouraged extremist and bawls elements in the Iranian regime to believe that Iran was assuming the initiative in the war after all, and that their slogan: Marching towards Bag-

Iraq's recent offensive signals growing might

By Tareq Masarweh

THE LATEST Iraqi offensive into Iranian territory came as a surprise to us and to Tehran following two and a half years of static defence adopted by Baghdad in the face of repeated Iranian abortive attacks. Baghdad's static defence policy adopted over the past 30 months prompted many military observers and international strategic institutes to maintain that it encouraged extremist and bawls elements in the Iranian regime to believe that Iran was assuming the initiative in the war after all, and that their slogan: Marching towards Bag-

bad was justifiable. Of late, military analysts noted that Baghdad has started taking delivery of advanced and sophisticated weapons and has tightened its blockade around Iranian ports. They also noted that Baghdad began announcing successes in scoring direct hits on major naval targets, regardless of statements by insurance companies, especially Lloyd of London, which had not always confirmed them, simply because Iraq had begun to attack not only oil tankers but also other ships in northern Iranian ports laden with

ammunition, war materials and other strategic commodities. Following the start of the new Iraqi offensive against Iran, military analysts began to realise the wisdom behind Baghdad's adoption of strategic defence over the past two and a half years. During that period Baghdad had acquired new certain types of weapons which require quite a time to be fully absorbed by the armed forces. Over the past 30 months, Iraq had taken stock of the situation, revised its economic and financial conditions and prepared itself for the worst that could be expected

to come. Official Iraqi statements that the country was being prepared to fight for a hundred more years should not go unnoticed. The new offensive that deployed four divisions should not therefore, be taken as an attempt to regain control of Majnoon Island, that little and strategically unimportant island on the border, but should rather be regarded as a mobile defence operation aimed at paving the way for further tactical attacks in the southern sector of the front, and designed to abort an expected Iranian offensive on Iraq for which Tehran had massed

nearly half a million troops. In launching the new offensive, Iraq had taken into consideration the present situation within the Tehran regime and the differences which have lately emerged between the "hawks" and the "doves" — those who support the continuation of the war and those who oppose it. The Iraqi leaders took into account also the Iranian opposition groups living in exile in Iraq with whom Baghdad came to an understanding. The Iraqi leadership does not deal with Tehran purely on military terms, and it was careful not to transform the

current conflict into hostility and permanent hatred among the two nations; thus proving itself totally different in nature from the bloody and expansionist regime in Tehran. Through its offensive, Iraq does not aim at reaching the Iranian capital but rather to bring about a change in its leadership. This is a legitimate and realistic objective acceptable to the Iranian opposition groups in Iraq.

The new Iraqi offensive is no doubt a new stage that could usher into the region new surprises far bigger than previously expected.

Short-term problems should not mortgage long-term interests

By Henry A. Kissinger

THE POLICYMAKER faces no more complex task than to prevent short-term problems from mortgaging his country's long-term interests. Nowhere is this more true than in the Gulf, where the vital interests of the two superpowers intersect and where the bulk of the world's energy reserves are concentrated. Two nightmares stalk the Gulf: the threat of collapsing oil prices and the impact of the Iran-Iraq war.

The industrial democracies, whose political and economic structures were shaken by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries' extortions in its heyday, would be less than human if they did not experience a certain glee at the discomfiture of their erstwhile tormentors. But revenge, even when sweet, is not foreign policy. And the victims of the 1970s would be wise not to perpetuate a cycle of shortsighted selfishness in which every decade victim and exploiter change roles until chaos consumes both.

The leaders of the industrial democracies in the 1970s asked the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for restraint in the name of a community of long-term economic interests of oil producers and consumers. These appeals though ignored were correct. Now that the shoe is on the other foot the necessity of basing world order on the reality of inter-dependence remains.

Of course, the industrial democracies can have no conceivable interest in helping OPEC to stabilise oil prices at artificially high levels. However, it is in their own interest to help cushion the global impact of what is bound to be — probably for the rest of the decade — a continuing downward pressure on oil prices.

The facts of the marketplace are simple, even if the consequences are not. In the 1970s OPEC controlled 75 per cent of global oil output. In the 1980s it controls less than 35 per cent. Its capacity to set prices diminishes accordingly.

In the 1970s, the expectation of higher oil prices led to a build up of inventories, thereby spurring demand. In the 1980s psychology has worked in exactly the opposite direction: the expectation of lower prices has induced a continued draw-down of inventories, thus restricting demand.

In the 1970s, the U.S. lost the capacity to increase production. In

the 1980s, OPEC is on the verge of losing the capacity to restrict production. Even a cut of 40 per cent by OPEC from its capacity proved insufficient to maintain the current oil price.

And foreseeable trends are likely to worsen the problem. During the next two years Iraq will complete two pipelines with a capacity of at least one million barrels per day. Other producers, in and out of OPEC, are fighting for a larger share of whatever marginal increase in demand global recovery brings.

Thus, international supply is likely to exceed demand, causing prices to fall — perhaps substantially. In short, OPEC is losing its physical capacity to increase prices by restricting output.

This partial reversal of the "energy tax" which OPEC imposed over a decade ago spells good news for the industrial democracies. It makes it easier to keep inflation under control and it will give an impetus to economic expansion.

But there are no free gifts in foreign policy. Were the West to gloat over its good fortune and seek to reap passively the benefits of OPEC's dilemma, it would neglect some very real dangers at the risk of finding itself quickly in deep water again.

A sharp decline in oil prices could well re-ignite the now barely dormant international debt crisis, especially for high-debt oil producers like Mexico, Venezuela, Nigeria and Indonesia. The threat to the global banking system posed by international debt would be magnified as domestic producers, refiners and oil service companies got into difficulty with their borrowings.

Collapsing oil economies would strain moderate regimes whose stability depends on economic growth. Successor radical revolutionary regimes would then have the choice of causing a new oil crisis by shutting down oil production on the model of the early years of the Iranian Revolution — or they could sell their oil and use the revenues to foment revolutionary disorder, following the example of Libya's Colonel Muammar Qadhafi. Or they could do both successively.

OPEC's effort to control prices, even when it fails, puts extraordinary pressure on the most moderate and responsible members of OPEC. For example, the oil income of Saudi Arabia has fallen

from \$110 billion in 1981 to below \$40 billion in 1984, and it is likely to fall further in 1985. One does not have to agree with every decision of the Saudi government to consider its role over the past decade more compatible with Western interests than any likely alternative. And the political orientation of the Gulf states in the 1990s will continue to be a matter of pre-eminent interest to the industrial democracies. By then the exhaustion of presently known non-OPEC oil reserves and the cumulative impact of a slowly rising demand could well resurrect the energy shortage — especially if economic growth continues and the industrial democracies fail to push the development of alternative energy resources.

Thus the oil glut, however beneficial, requires long-range planning. In the 1970s the industrial democracies rejected concerted action lest a consumers group antagonise OPEC. Today, cooperation among the industrial democracies is essential to protect them against the harmful effects of a precipitate price decline and in the process to help save the more responsible OPEC nations from the consequences of their greed.

The industrial democracies should devote part of their next economic summit to developing a programme to deal with the oil glut.

A contingency plan must be devised should declining oil prices trigger an international banking crisis. In such an emergency the responsibility cannot be delegated to a banking system that will itself be gravely threatened. Placitudes about not bailing out banks must then give way to urgent measures to stimulate global economic expansion.

A dialogue between oil producers and consumers should be prepared. Its purpose would not be to maintain the oil price, but to enable friendly oil-producing countries to ride out the crisis by continuing the minimum development programmes required for political stability.

Concurrently, the industrial democracies need to plan the steps they would take should political stability in the Gulf collapse despite their best efforts.

The present temporary respite from oil pressures must be used to encourage conservation policies and to encourage the development of alternative sources of energy — exactly the opposite of shameful present trends. Otherwise the 1990s, once more facing an energy shortage, may well curse the bil-

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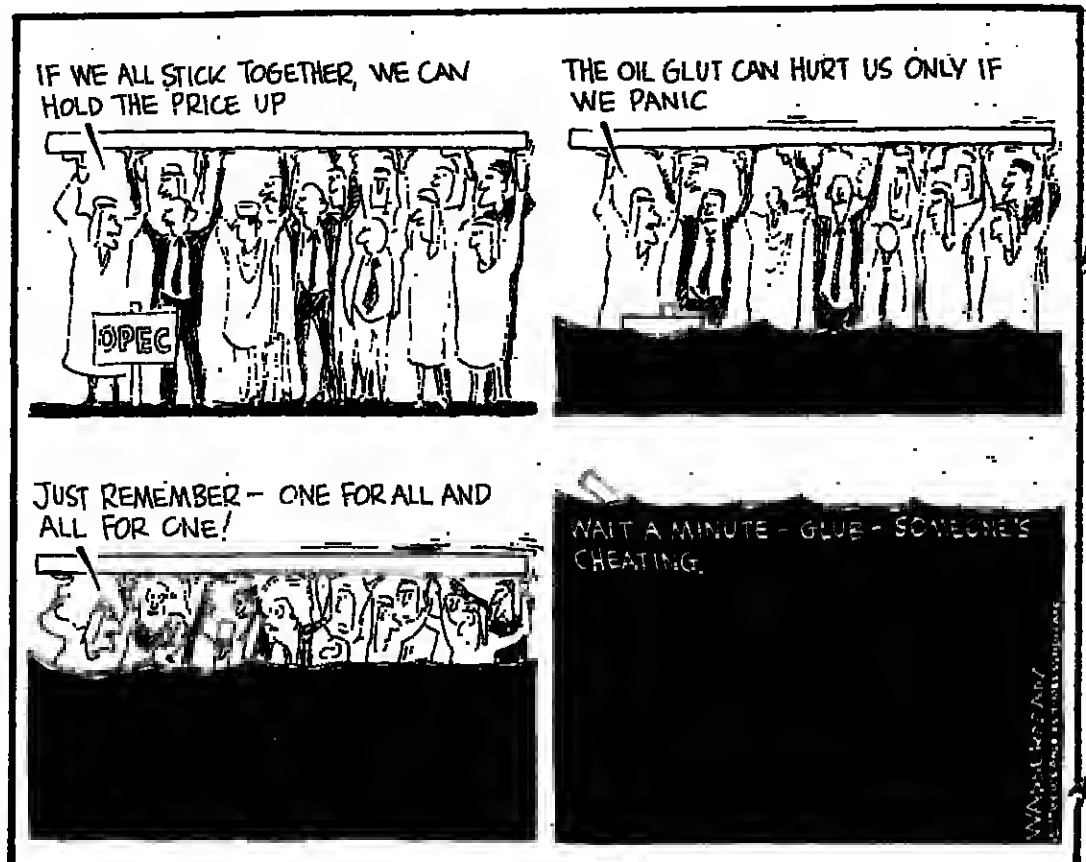
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lity that Iran has been invaded mostly from the north and overland rather than from the sea.

Hysterical anti-Western agitation will not shorten Iran's frontier of about 1,500 kilometres with the Soviet Union — now more menacing through the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Nor can bloodthirsty dogmatism eliminate, indeed it will enhance, the danger of revolt by Iran's constituent nationalities — in Baluchistan, Kurdistan or Azerbaijan — a revolt the Soviet Union is in an unusually favourable position to nurture.

Thus, the conventional wisdom that Soviet and American interests in the Iran-Iraq conflict coincide is valid only in a very limited sense. The U.S. interest is to prevent the collapse of the moderate governments in the Arab World. This requires a restrained, not an impotent, Iran.

By contrast, the Soviet Union would receive a great bonus if Iran emerged from the war fatally weakened and in irreparable disarray. For Iran is the natural axis for a Soviet advance to the Indian Ocean. The Western objective must be to prevent an Iraqi defeat but in a manner that does not drain and disorganise Iran.

A united Iran pursuing a moderate national policy coincides with the Western interest in the stability of the Gulf. The policy of isolating Iran is proper so long as Tehran is governed by expansionist fanatics.

But just as the U.S. has moved to a close relationship with Iraq in recent months, so the U.S. should retain the option of improved relations when a sense of reality returns in Tehran by keeping open some avenues for non-strategic trade and opportunities for a sane dialogue.

The West's position vis-a-vis Iran has some analogy to America's relationship with China in the 1950s and 1960s. Warranted outrage over provocative challenges must not be permitted to foreclose later opportunities for cooperation based on mutual interest. This reality will, in my view, be present within a decade.

A wise American policy will pursue a dual track: firm resistance to Iranian expansionism today coupled with a readiness for constructive relations later when fundamental realities have reasserted themselves. This is no more than saying that statesmen in mastering immediate circumstance must leave room for the imponderables of history — Los Angeles Times.

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The 1985 season

THE VISIT to Washington this week of the Egyptian foreign minister marks the start of the annual influx of Arab statesmen and officials to the American capital. It is a familiar scene, and not always a fruitful one. For several decades — decades — Arab leaders have faithfully journeyed to Washington to impress upon the American leadership and public the need for them to come to grips with the Palestinian issue as the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict. American leaders have nodded in sympathy, offered weapons for sale, perhaps even some understanding, but have made few substantive changes in their Middle Eastern policy. The message should be clear by now: American policy in the Middle East is based on rather firm principles that, unfortunately for us, do not mesh very well with what we perceive to be our priorities.

It would do much for Arab dignity and self-respect if the Arab leaders and politicians who make it to Washington this season would do a little less pleading, and a little more hard political work. The American government's pro-Israeli tilt is not implanted in little American babies at birth. It is a function of political realities, and the result of pressures that make it politically easier and more logical for American officials to support Israel and largely ignore the Arabs.

In the coming few months, Israel seems set to ask the Americans for something like \$1.25 billion in additional economic aid for this fiscal year. The Arabs, in the same period, seems set to ask the Americans once again to be nice to the Palestinians and talk to the PLO. What are the Israelis doing to help their cause, and what are the Arab states doing to help theirs? Arab leaders in Washington this year would do well to ponder these points — and then do something about them.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Help Europe help us

NOW THAT it has become clear that the European Community is preparing to issue a new initiative on the Middle East based on the Venice Declaration, it is incumbent upon the Arabs to be prepared to receive it. Preparation means that they have to adopt a unified stand and as a first step the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) should take a clear decision with regard to proposals made by King Hussein on working out a joint formula on the Middle East issue. It also means that the Arabs as a whole should give backing to the Jordan-PLO joint moves.

Such backing and such consensus can be achieved at a summit meeting, grouping all Arab leaders who can make a general study of the situation and adopt certain plans to deal with all eventualities. An Arab summit has become essential in order to help the Europeans help us get a lasting settlement for our problem. It is we who are really concerned about our kinsmen under Israeli occupation rule, a summit is inevitable for confronting sufferings and Zionist arbitrary practices.

To leave the situation as it is means giving Israel further chance to consolidate its hold over the occupied lands and also to take away from the European Community its chance to help us achieve peace.

Al Dustour: Visiting an ambiguous Washington

ON THE eve of visits to Washington by Saudi King Fahd and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak American officials have been issuing ambiguous statements regarding U.S. policies towards the Middle East. These statements are contradictory and cast doubt over Washington's declared desire to help end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The statements imply that Washington is trying to back away from its commitments and promises, instead of working sincerely towards the achievement of a just peace. Instead of proving itself as a superpower that has to play a major role in the establishment of peace, the U.S. administration is pursuing a policy shrouded with ambiguity and hesitation, which proves that it will remain committed to its strategic alliance agreement with Israel and will try to impose on the Arabs, Israeli terms for a settlement. The Israeli terms would not doubt ensure for Israel expansion and domination. Of course, the United States is still counting on inter-Arab differences, which are causing the Arab Nation to become weaker every day and unable to stand up to the Israeli conspiracies and the unstable U.S. policies.

We hope that the U.S. will realise that its biased attitude is bound to cause more dangers and tension in our region, and we also hope that Arab leaders' visits to Washington will make this situation clear at the White House.

Sawt Al Shaab: Any chance to have Washington revise policies?

KING FAHD'S visit to the United States is expected to open a new dialogue between Washington and the Arab Nation, but it is doubtful that it will change American policies towards the Middle East. The United States seems to be firmly committed to Israel and despite U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia and the distinguished relationship between the two countries, King Fahd will find it impossible to change, the American stand and achieve a breakthrough.

The prevailing Arab situation does not help King Fahd to do anything of substance for the Arabs, and the absence of a unified Arab stand will certainly constitute an obstacle to the king's talks with President Reagan. Of late, Washington has been showing no regard to the Arabs, not even its Gulf friends which it denied any arms sales for defensive purposes.

The United States has allowed Israel the chance to build settlements in the occupied Arab territories and has been supplying the Zionist state with all forms of weapons and technology. Therefore, it will be impossible for King Fahd to reverse the course of things and convince the Americans of the need to change their stand.

Returned Kim is denied political role

By Granville Watts

SEOUL — South Korean dissident leader Kim Dae-Jung is banned from all political activity, but his stormy return here has dominated the run-up to Tuesday's national parliamentary elections.

Tens of thousands of students turned out to greet Mr. Kim at Seoul Airport on his return Friday from two years of self exile in the United States, shouting "democratic leader Kim Dae-Jung".

His return also revitalised the sagging opposition, particularly because of his support for the newly-formed New Korea Democratic Party (NKDP), which hopes to capture at least 20 seats in the 276-member National Assembly.

President Chun Doo Hwan's ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP), with the entire government apparatus on its side, is expected to hold its 150 seats in the assembly comfortably. Any losses will be claimed as a moral victory by the opposition.

Opposition leaders such as NKDP Chairman Yi Min-U say that political repression and unfair electoral systems make it certain the DJP will retain parliamentary supremacy.

And Mr. Kim told reporters: "There is no chance of a free and fair election. The electoral system cannot guarantee that."

Mr. Yi told reporters the opposition would also suffer because of a proportional representation

system under which 92 seats are allocated to parties according to the number of seats they win.

Although Mr. Yi is the figurehead leader, the NKDP recognises Kim Dae-Jung as its true leader and his return is expected to boost the fledgling party's chances.

Mr. Kim and 14 other politicians hanned from all political activity until 1988 say the previous opposition failed to be effective in parliament, but that an NKDP bridgehead would give a new voice for criticism against Mr. Chun's regime.

The 20-day campaign period has been marked by lively rallies and open debates warred by at least two attacks on ruling party members.

Mr. Kim has said that his sights are focused not one the parliamentary elections, but on free presidential elections when Mr. Chun steps down in 1988.

Mr. Kim won an astonishing 45 per cent of the popular vote against former President Park Chung-Hee in 1971, and diplomats here feel he could surpass the performance in 1988, year of the Seoul Olympics.

Mr. Kim and other opposition leaders have expressed fears, however, that Mr. Chun will not allow the constitution to be changed to provide for free direct presidential elections and that he will retain power, or hand it over to another military figure.

Mr. Chun has said repeatedly that he will stand down when his seven-year term expires.

Mr. Chun, a former army general, came to power following a military coup in 1980, and has been denounced as a dictator by Mr. Kim and other dissidents.

Mr. Kim told reporters he had returned to Seoul hoping to open a dialogue with Mr. Chun about the restoration of democracy.

"If the government continues to close the door, it will meet our people's protest," Mr. Kim told reporters Friday.

"I am not begging for government charity. I only ask the government to show a reasonable attitude. This is good not only for me but for the government itself," he said.

Mr. Chun, who freed 84 politicians from a political ban last year, said the general elections would be held in a fair manner to help foster democracy in South Korea. He is due to visit Washington for talks with President Reagan in April.

Diplomats said that relations between Washington and Seoul were not helped by an incident at Seoul Airport on Mr. Kim's return.

Mr. Kim says he was treated violently by security guards who pushed him into an elevator. Four Americans including two congressmen who accompanied him have said they and Mr. Kim were kicked and punched by the guards.

Seoul police denied there was any violence, but the U.S. State Department has lodged a formal protest with the Seoul government over the incident and demanded a full investigation.

Is Soviet participation welcome?

RECENT CALLS by Arab and European countries for Soviet participation in an international conference on the Middle East have led to speculation that the Soviet Union could become more involved in the "peace process". But the United States and Israel still oppose such a conference.

It is expected, nonetheless, that the subject of such a conference will be on the agenda during upcoming talks in Washington between President Reagan and Saudi Arabia's King Fahd in February, and between the president and Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in March.

The idea has been gathering momentum since Jordan proposed in December that the United Nations sponsor a conference on the Middle East that would be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France, and China — and all the parties directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Mubarak endorsed the plan publicly in December, following a visit to Egypt by the Jordanian monarch, and most other Arab countries and a number of European governments are showing keen interest.

In calling for the conference, King Hussein hopes to ensure that the views of all of the parties that must support a comprehensive agreement will be directly presented in the negotiating process.

Some Middle East observers welcome an expanded role for the Soviet Union. They note that keeping the Soviet Union out of the peace process merely encourages it to undermine U.S. efforts to find a solution. By co-opting the Soviet Union into the actual negotiations, the Soviets will be much more likely to honour a comprehensive solution.

The Reagan administration strongly opposes Soviet participation in any peace negotiations, even though Soviet influence in the Middle East has grown since the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in 1982, and even though at least tacit Soviet approval of the results of any negotiations would have to be obtained to ensure their successful implementation.

Prior to the journey of then Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat to Jerusalem in 1977, and the subsequent initiation of the Camp David process, American administrations had factored Soviet interest and influence into their Middle East policy. In December 1973, following the October war, the United States and the Soviet Union were cosponsors of a short-lived peace conference in Geneva. Under the Carter administration, a joint Soviet-American communiqué outlining the goals of a projected future Geneva conference was issued on Oct. 1, 1977.

The strategy of including the Soviet Union in the search for

peace changed after President Sadat's journey to Jerusalem. Thereafter, American efforts were aimed at isolating Soviet influence in the region and projecting the United States as the only outside power capable of acting as honest broker in any peace process. Israel's invasion and prolonged occupation of Lebanon, together with the loss of prestige associated with U.S. peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, however, undermined the American image as honest broker, particularly to Jordan.

Relations between the Soviet Union and the United States have been strained during President Reagan's first administration. This recent thaw in relations between the two countries, however, appears to have spread to Middle East issues as well. White House officials indicated that the two countries had agreed to hold a new round of high-level talks about the situation in the Middle East as an outgrowth of President Reagan's proposal for "periodic consultations at policy level about regional problems." But officials emphasised that such consultations were merely to be an "exchange of views" and were "not a matter of formal negotiation at all." — Middle East Focus.

Middle East Focus is published in Washington by the National Association of Arab Americans.

الأمم المتحدة

Occupied Golan Heights — a community under siege

While all eyes are on southern Lebanon, and Israel's three-phase withdrawal, the occupied Golan Heights are virtually forgotten. Matthew Carr, who recently visited the area, wrote this report.

THE village of Majdal Cham is situated on the slopes of Mount Hermon, in the northernmost corner of the Golan Heights. As you approach it from a distance, with its rows of flat-roofed houses neatly piled together, the village seems the picture of rural peace and contentment. This idyllic impression is soon dispelled as an Israeli jeep comes rumbling out of the stockade at the centre of the village. High above Majdal Cham, at the top of Mount Hermon, an Israeli outpost looks out over Syria and South Lebanon.

From the balcony of one of the houses in the village, the Israeli-Syrian ceasefire line can be seen, a dirt road with a wire fence alongside, snaking its way round Mount Hermon and down towards the Golan Heights. A heavily-mined strip of land, about 50 yards wide, separates the two countries. Before the 1973 war, the land on both sides of the "border" belonged to Majdal Cham. Now their land has been divided, and relatives have been separated from one another. Forbidden by Israel to have any contact with Syria, the villagers' only communication with their relatives is through the megaphones that they use to shout

messages and greetings across no-man's land.

Majdal Cham is one of only five villages remaining, out of some 200 that existed before the June war of 1967. Its inhabitants, like most of the indigenous population of the Golan, are Syrian Druze. Before the Israeli occupation began, there were over 100,000 people living in the area. There are now only 15,000 left. The others have been killed or have fled. Some have emigrated back to Syria while others have moved further down into the Golan. The combination of Israeli colonisation and the fear of future conflict has virtually emptied the area of its original inhabitants, giving it an eerie, deserted feel.

The villages in which they lived have either been destroyed during the fighting or torn down by Israeli bulldozers to make way for Jewish agricultural settlements. In some places there is still evidence remaining — a few heaps of stones, an occasional village cemetery, a gutted house, left to rot in the wind. Elsewhere the villages have been completely eradicated from the landscape, replaced by gleaming new "kibbutzim" and "moshavim". In the resort spot of Banias, Israeli tourists and foreign sightseers eat picnic lunches in the ruins of an Arab village that once housed over 3,000 people.

Because of its strategic location, the possession of the Golan Heights has been fiercely contested by Israel and Syria. The continual violence has left a permanent mark on the landscape. Large areas of land are still fenced off due to the continued presence of mines. Above Banias, rows of deserted Syrian pillboxes look out over the Golan valley. Everywhere the land is gouged with military roads and trenches. Although there has not been fighting here for some time, the area is still heavily militarised and one rarely travels far without encountering Israeli patrols.

Except for the brief period of Syrian reconquest in 1973, the Golan Heights has been under Israeli occupation since the 1967 War. It has not been an experience which has endeared Israel to the Druze. "The occupation here," says Khalid, a Druze teacher from the Golan, "is not as tough as the West Bank and Gaza, but life is still very hard for the people." Hostility towards Israel is practically universal and the people have bitter memories of Israel's conduct during the wars, when they say their villages were shelled

and civilians were shot arbitrarily. Many people particularly children, have been killed or maimed by treading on mines.

Strict security regulations govern the relations between the Druze and Syria, and "troublesome" political elements are often arrested on the pretext of suspected dealings with the Syrians. The penalties for this are harsh and five to 10 year sentences are frequently handed out on the flimsiest evidence. One man I met had recently served 10 years for this offence. He still claims that he was innocent and told me that before the trial his confession was written for him. His story is not unusual and practically everyone I met had either been to prison themselves or knew someone who had. Periodic exchanges of prisoners take place between Syria and Israel, and these occasions are often turned into pro-Syrian demonstrations which are sometimes punished by Israel.

All this, say the villagers of Majdal Cham, is part of a plan to make them leave their land. Land is the crucial issue in the Golan. The marvellous fertility of the soil is perfectly suited for agriculture and many of the villages have been cultivating it for over 400 years. Not surprisingly, the people are reluctant to leave, and the period of occupation has seen an intense war of attrition develop.

Israel justifies its land acquisitions by reference to the old Ottoman law, under which any land that has not been worked for 10 years automatically becomes state property. In practice, this means that the land is then handed over to Jewish settlers. The villagers have tried to combat this regulation by digging up every inch of land without planting any crops. Another Israeli tactic has been the diversion of the water supply to its own settlements. The presence of mines, and the lack of mine-detecting equipment, presents continual difficulties for Druze farmers.

The overall standard of living in Majdal Cham is quite high, in comparison with the other occupied territories. Nevertheless, the people work extremely hard for what they have. Apart from talking to a few people with relatives in Syria have received money to start small businesses. The rest do what Salama, a construction worker, calls "Arab work". Like the Palestinians in the occupied territories, the Druze perform the "dirty work" for the Israeli economy, building "kibbutzim",



A UN checkpoint in the Golan Heights.

share the labour in the fields but also help to construct each other's houses.

It is rare to find a community where the individual members take such obvious delight in each other's company. Each house has a large room for receiving visitors and the villagers socialise at every possible opportunity. At parties and special occasions, vast numbers of people pour into one room and sing rousing choruses of famous nationalist songs. Everyone exudes the same warmth and good humour, the same optimism, the same sense of triumph. Some of the young men are militant to the point of recklessness, even in the presence of Israeli soldiers.

The situation in the Golan Heights appears to be a stalemate, and it is difficult to foresee what will happen in the future. The Druze are confident that sooner or later they will be reunited with Syria. Yet given the strategic importance of the Golan, and Israel's traditional reluctance to hand back any of its conquered territories, it seems unlikely that the area will be willingly handed back to Syria. Syria itself can do little to alter the situation, short of attacking Israel militarily, an event which also seems unlikely.

The status of the Golan Heights is not on the agenda at any current negotiations. At the same time, the Druze are determined to resist full annexation. How long this situation can continue is impossible to determine. Whatever happens, it does not seem to worry the people of Majdal Cham. They remain confident in their ability to hold out against Israel, believing, as Salama's words, that "the struggle in the Golan will go on".

The Middle East Magazine.



Electronic eavesdropping: an Israeli patrol in the Golan.

British Columbia gets prepared for economic recovery

Canada's most westerly province, British Columbia, is experiencing a spate of development activity as foreign investors flock in, anticipating economic recovery after a period of severe recession. Bernard Simon reports.

TORONTO — Vancouver property developers appear to be defying the laws of supply and demand. At a time when one in every five offices in the city stands vacant, and landlords are offering prospective tenants up to six months free rent plus furnishing, new office construction is at record levels.

But the Canadian, British and Far East investors putting up the new tower blocks may turn out to be shrewder than they seem.

They have chosen to locate their products in a corner of North America untouched by the economic recovery of the past two years, taking advantage of plentiful materials, keen competition among suppliers and usually moderate labour costs. In addition, the new buildings may be ready for occupation just as the economy of western Canada begins to catch up with the rest of the continent again.

Some observers already believe that the clouds of gloom which have enveloped British Columbia (B.C.) Canada's most westerly province, are about to lift. Mr. James Matkin, president of the local Business Council representing B.C.'s employers, argues that "things have to get really bad before they get better. In British Columbia's history, we're right at that mark."

Low commodity prices, labour strife and a harsh austerity programme imposed by the provincial government have ravaged business and consumer confidence for the past three years. While the rest of north America has basked in an economic recovery, British Columbia has suffered negative real growth for two years out of three, with a meagre advance of 1.5 per cent in 1983. Unemployment remains close to 15 per cent.

The Vancouver Food Bank, formed in late 1982 to provide groceries to needy families, last month raised the number of parcels it distributes from 2,500 to 3,000 a week. A long line of recipients queuing outside the city's Anglican cathedral each Wednesday morning is a stark contrast to the gleaming office blocks and hotels around them.

British Columbia can probably claim the poorest labour relations record in North America. Stoppages in the past 12 months alone have shut pulp and paper

Mulroney, is reopening the controversial issue of free trade between Canada and the U.S. the world's two biggest trading partners. No one yet knows whether, when or how a recent series of talks between Ottawa and Washington on free trade in four specific sectors (including urban transit equipment and special steels) will be expanded. But public opinion throughout Canada appears to favour some broadening of these discussions.

Freer trade between the two countries is the spur that British Columbia needs to diversify its economy. For example, in spite of vast timber resources, a furniture industry has so far failed to materialise. Conversely, local businessmen think that a relaxation of Canadian curbs may encourage an influx of foreign financial institutions to Vancouver.

One big obstacle to the federal government negotiating better access for western Canadian products to the U.S. market is the eff-

ect of reciprocal concessions that would have to be made to American manufacturers upon the industrialised provinces of Ontario and Quebec. Jealousies between Canada's 10 provinces arising from their divergent economic interests are among the factors which have thwarted progress towards trade liberalisation in the past.

Within British Columbia, the provincial government has begun to recognise that initiatives are needed if the province is to attract investment and capitalise on the window to the Far East which it shares with the west coast states. Mr. Bennett said in an interview that his main priority now is "to broaden the economic base in the area of manufacture and exports. Our economy can only be built on exports."

South-east Asia has already displaced Europe as western Canada's main trading partner. Besides Japanese investment in the north-eastern B.C. coal mines, Far East interest are increasingly active in the Vancouver property

market. Hong Kong investors early in 1984 bought the province's largest shopping mall in suburban Vancouver.

Mr. Bennett, who has himself visited Japan and China in the past year, has instructed his ministers to step up their foreign travel in a bid to generate trade and investment.

In addition, the provincial government is working on what Mr. Bennett calls an "industrial encouragement package" to revise business confidence and attract more secondary industry. The plan, likely to be unveiled next February, will probably include tax cuts. If the province can persuade Ottawa to agree, it will also set up Canada's first duty-free processing zones.

To make zones even more attractive to business, the Bennett government has hit on the idea of exempting them indefinitely from collective bargaining legislation, thus insulating them from B.C.'s high labour costs and heavily uni-

onised workforce.

The plan has infuriated trade unionists, but there is little they can do to stop it. The recession has severely weakened and divided the union movement. Membership of the International Woodworkers of America in British Columbia has plunged by almost 30 per cent since the onset of the recession; several of the new projects in downtown Vancouver are being built with non-union labour — one way in which the developers are able to hold down construction costs.

A deep split has opened up between moderate private sector unions whose members are hardest hit by redundancies and wage cut, and more militant public sector groups like teachers.

The question is how long a truce on the labour front will last. Political loyalties are more sharply defined with a higher ideological content in British Columbia than anywhere else in Canada.

Financial Times news feature.

Yangtze trackers. recall days of hauling ships like mules

By Robert M. Poole

SHASHI, China — The old men sip hot tea in a cold upstairs room that is barren of decoration. They look so frail that it is hard to picture them as younger men — "trackers" who worked in harness, like mules, pulling ships upstream against the infamous current of the Yangtze River.

"It was miserable work," says Zhang Jianming, one of the trackers who recalls how he once hauled ships upriver. "We would sweat and our skin would burn in the summer. In the winter we would freeze. Often we had no place to sleep, so we slept in tea-houses or in the open. Many of my friends died in this work."

Mr. Zhang and his comrades trudged the dangerous trails high above the great river. Tethered by long, woven bamboo cables to their mother ship, they muscled their way upstream through the mountains of Hunan and Sichuan provinces, dragging wooden junks loaded with cargo.

Zhang cites progress

Mr. Zhang, now 57, works as a stevedore here in Shashi, or "Sand City," on the banks of the Yangtze. Along with other former trackers, he points proudly to im-

provements brought on by the establishment of the Communist government in 1949 and by the current regime's modernisation campaign.

"We have come from little boats to big boats, from wood to iron, from muscle to mechanisation on this river," says Mr. Zhang.

While such advances are impressive, the visitor to China is still struck by the nation's abiding reliance on human muscle, the same sort of fiber that, long ago, built the Great Wall and dug imperial canals across thousands of miles, shaping China out of an obstinate landscape.

Today, despite all the progress and passage of time, human muscle remains the driving force behind this nation of one billion people.

It is most noticeable in the countryside, where four out of five Chinese live as farmers, tending small plots impractical for tractors and other machinery. In the steep mountains of Sichuan Province, one sees these peasants working just as their ancestors did, with little more than a hoe and a chant, chopping the earth from dawn until sunset. The difference now is that farmers can take their surplus to sell in market cities like Wanzhan.

The girls, women, and old men come into Wanzhan, country people at a glance, their skin bronzed by the sun, their shoulders broad from hard work, their harsh voices carrying along the stone streets. They trudge up from the river, taking slow steps under the great weight of their yokes or shoulder baskets, which are jammed with the various crops of autumn: oranges, peppers, and peanuts; potatoes, cabbages, and pig feet. A boy of 15 sets up shop in the gathering dusk, arranging his oranges in baskets on the main street.

Hard journey to market

"It took me most of the day to get here," he says. He walked two miles to a bus stop near his home, rode the bus three hours to a Yangtze crossing, waited for the ferry, made the 20-minute passage, and finally entered Wanzhan. "My family stayed home to continue working. I'll stay here until my oranges are sold — probably tomorrow."

Other farm families hire out their muscle, working as day labourers in town when their planting and harvesting are finished.

In the riverside town of Baicheng, peasants load huge white bags of fertilizer onto ox carts by hand, wrestle the one-ton cargo

down a steep hillside trail that is slick with mud, then lift the bags, one by one, onto their backs. They file onto barges to stack the bags for shipment on the Yangtze, then climb uphill for another load.

High on the rice

Then the men swing into action.

Two of them open a gate on the truck's side. Atop the mountain of sacks, groups of four start singing. "Ahyah! Ahyah! Ahyah! Ahyah!" as they lift a 50-pound bag onto the back of a colleague, who chants as he descends the slope to the truck and flips the sack aboard with resounding thump. When the first load is finished, the men

Randa Habib's Corner

One-way yes

THE OTHER DAY I heard someone on TV, in a country where elections were taking place, saying: "All citizens will be completely free to say 'yes'."

The sentence said in the most simple manner, made me dream: So, every citizen could say his "yes" as he wishes:

- By nodding his head;
- By waving his finger;
- by blinking his eyes;
- by writing "yes" on the bulletin of vote, and here several alternatives are there to choose from:

— The "yes" can be written in block letters; in italics; in typing; handwritten with a pencil, in green, blue or red ink; in felt pen ... The choice is wide and the freedom that the citizen enjoys is unlimited.

Groups of tens of people can be formed to say one single "yes". Hundreds of people can assemble and one hold a sign with a big "yes". Undoubtedly, there are plenty of alternatives. People can even phone the officials to say "yes". Offices can be established where employees will only have to answer the telephones to listen to the "yes" communicated by telephone. Some can also send their "yes" by telex if they are too busy to go there; well, why not, freedom has no barriers; one person in every city could even be empowered to say a unanimous "yes".

How lovely is freedom as seen by some. Thus you can understand how the results of elections can be 99.99 per cent. It is simply because people have a variety of ways to say "yes". As in the ones who still want to say "no", what we can say is that they are really bad-spirited and uncooperative.

Massive lay offs leave thousands hungry in rural South Africa

By Sharon Fuller

Reuter

LEBUVU, South Africa — The ranks of hungry blacks are swelling in white-ruled South Africa as a deep recession forces massive lay-offs of migrant workers.

The plight of rural communities dumped in barren homelands by apartheid racial segregation policies has been aggravated by the sacking of thousands of workers who had gone to white cities to earn a living for families back home.

Deepening recession, brought on largely by falling gold prices and soaring inflation, has led many companies to sack workers while others have shut down completely.

The dire state of the motor industry has cost 3,200 jobs so far, with associate firms sacking about four times that number and a recently-announced merger threatening 2,000 more. Some 6,000 oil refinery workers lost their jobs in 1984 for striking.

A bleak future awaits the migrants, separated from relatives by laws restricting women and children to the homelands, when they return to the impoverished tribal locations whose nominal independence is recognised only by South Africa.

Most of the dismissed workers have little prospect of finding new jobs or enough land to become subsistence farmers in drought-stricken South Africa.

Recent rains that drenched some areas came too late to save the crops of many black farmers who lack the sophisticated infrastructure of white farmers, a food aid organiser said.

The area of Lebuvu in the Venda homeland, 400 kilometres north of Johannesburg, reports over half of its men unemployed.

Outside the local Catholic mission clinic, growing queues of listless women and malnourished children await treatment, according to a nun who declined to be

named. She said most of the 200 treated daily were suffering diseases due to malnutrition, which reduces the body's resistance to illness.

Children with sores covering their bodies and faces, their eyes blood-shot, mill among the round thatched homes dotting a landscape rendered deceptively lush by the ill-timed rains.

Ina Perlman, who launched "Operation Hunger" in 1980 to alleviate the plight of rural blacks, told Reuters 2.9 million children under 15 in those regions had symptoms of malnutrition.

Malnourishment is the cause of death of 55 per cent of the black children who die under the age of five.

Ms. Perlman says almost half of South Africa's 22.6 million blacks suffer from diseases like tuberculosis and around 30 per cent have defective eyesight, also the result of malnutrition.

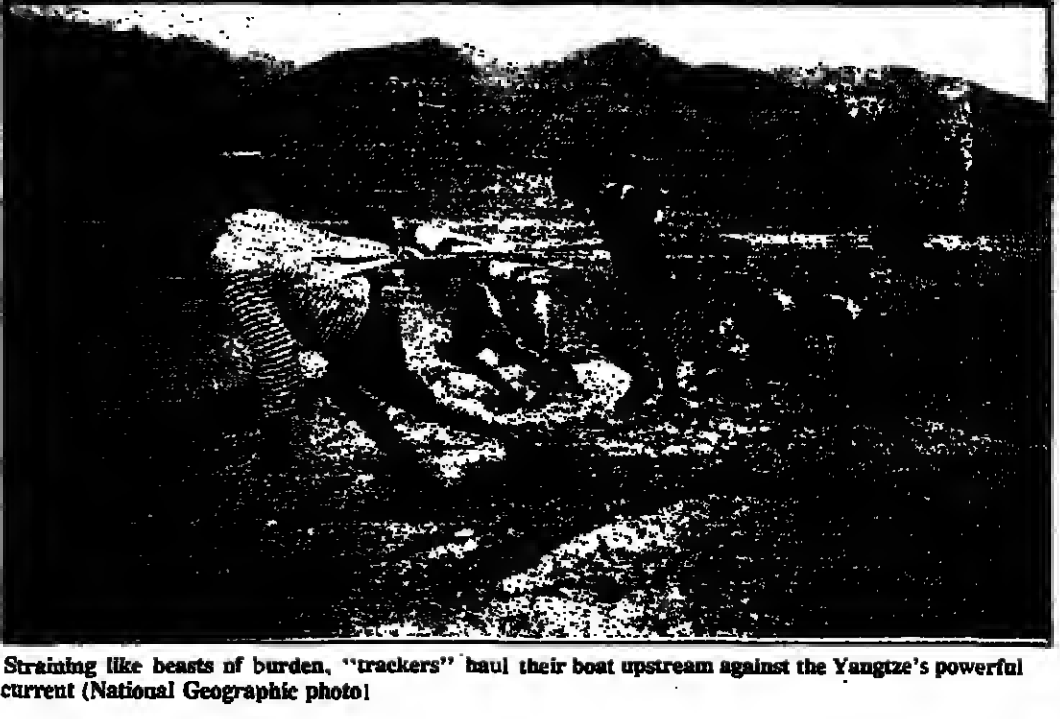
Her appeal raised money, mostly from whites, to help more than 600,000 people in 1983, offering black schoolchildren a daily meal for six South African cents (three U.S. cents).

But many children who escape starving to death are mentally retarded, which slows their learning ability and reduces their chances of breaking away from wretched local conditions.

School facilities, far inferior to those offered to affluent whites, compound the problem. One small, makeshift classroom in Lebuvu houses up to 100 pupils of mixed ages, many of whom walk five kilometres to reach school.

Running water is scarce — women sometimes walk 10 kilometres for a bucket of water — and hygiene standards are correspondingly low.

With little relief in sight for the country's business community, reeling under record interest rates and a 40 per cent rise in petrol prices announced last month, there seems to be no imminent respite for rural blacks.



Straining like beasts of burden, "trackers" haul their boat upstream against the Yangtze's powerful current (National Geographic photo).

Lewis steals the show at U.S. Olympic indoor athletics meeting

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — Olympic gold medalist Maricica Puica was upset in the 3,000 metres, Ireland's Eamonn Coghlan won his 13th successive mile and a leg cramp cost Mary Decker-Slaney the 1,500 metres.

But it was Carl Lewis who stole the show at the 16th U.S. Olympic invitational indoor athletics meeting Saturday night. It might be called the first step in the re-packaging of an Olympic superstar.

Ten Olympic gold medal winners competed, but only one U.S. best fell in a meeting that had the crowd expecting world marks.

Lewis comfortably won the 55 metres in 6.15 seconds, well short of his own world best of 6.02, but it was his singing that won over many fans who had often booed the man who won four Olympic golds for his apparent arrogance and coldness.

His deep voice faltered only a few times in his unaccompanied rendition and the crowd stood and showered him with applause.

American Ruth Wysocki, whose specialty is the 1,500 metres, brought the 15,000 fans to their feet when she overtook an obviously weary Puica about two-thirds through the race.

They had been on a world-best pace but the blonde Romanian, who said she had not done much training, did not have the stamina to come back.

Wysocki set a meeting record of eight minutes 49.93 seconds. Puica was second in 8:53.53. "I was surprised when I passed her. I expected her to pull away," Wysocki said.

Coghlan ran his usual race, staying well back until the last half, and put on a powerful kick to stretch a neck in front of South African-born American Sydney Maree at the tape.

Coghlan's winning time was three minutes 52.37 seconds, well off the world best of 3:49.78 he set on the same track in 1983.

"I was hoping for a world record but probably it was more hope than anything else because I haven't been doing much speed work lately," Coghlan said.

Slaney, competing for the first time under her married name, was

leading Diane Richburg by about 15 metres when, with less than two laps to go, she pulled up with a cramp in her right calf.

Her husband, British discus thrower Richard Slaney, carried her off the infield in a scene reminiscent of her Olympic tragedy in the 3,000 metres final, when she collided with Zola Budd.

She called the problem a slight cramp.

Valerie Brisco-Hooks, a triple-gold medalist at Los Angeles, avenged earlier defeats by fellow American Diane Dixon with a U.S. best in the 400 metres of 52.63 seconds. Dixon was also inside her former U.S. best of 53.17.

American Joetta Clark beat Cristina Cojocaru of Romania and Ravilya Agletdinova of the Soviet Union in the women's 800 metres with a meeting record time of 2:02.30. Vall Jonescu of Romania beat Carol Lewis, Carl's sister, on her last attempt in the long jump. She matched Lewis' 6.62 metres, but won because Lewis fouled on all of her other attempts.

Kenyan Sammy Koskei and Edwin Koech finished one-two in the 1,000 metres, with Koskei's winning time of 2:19.19 a full 21 seconds short of Briton Sebastian Coe's world best.



Carl Lewis

Portugal beats Malta in World Cup qualifier

VALLETTA (R) — Portugal Sunday beat Malta 3-1 in a World Cup qualifying match at Qali stadium here to move to the head of the competition's European Group Two.

But like West Germany — 3-2 winner here last December — the Portuguese found that, despite their vastly superior speed and technique the Maltese were hard to beat on their home ground.

An indifferent early performance by Malta's goalkeeper Mifsud and lack of cohesion in its defence allowed the visitors to take the lead in the sixth minute. Carlos Manuel curled a free kick from 40 metres out round the defence and past Mifsud, who appeared to have the shot covered, into the net.

The early goal left the home defence rattled and Portuguese striker Fernando Gomes capitalised on its confusion six minutes later to exploit a defensive error and fire the second past Mifsud.

Malta came close to reducing the deficit once in the first half when forward Raymond Xuereb

collected a cross from the left and lobbed the ball over onrushing Portuguese keeper Bento, only to hit the bar.

Marrio Farrugia, substituted for Azzopardi, tightened Malta's control in the midfield, but the home side suffered a blow with the loss of Martin Scicluna, taken to hospital with a sprained ankle.

Play switched from end to end throughout the second half, and while both goalkeepers were tested the scoreline held until the interval.

Malta's attacks took on greater determination after the turnaround, however, and their efforts were rewarded in the 60th minute. Bento managed to parry a drive from Xuereb but failed to hold the ball and Nardu Farrugia slammed it home to narrow the deficit.

Portugal then seemed more intent on holding onto their lead in the face of Maltese persistence. But the home side's hopes of an equaliser evaporated in the 73rd minute when Gomes ran through from midfield to score the clincher.

Jordan wins go kart race

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan won the go kart championship race held in Kuwait on Friday. The participating groups which competed in the one-kilometre race came from Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Britain and Holland in addition to Jordan. The Jordanian team formed by Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airline included Hani Bisharat, Ibrahim Bisharat, Omar Bilbeisi and Khader Al Qasbi. The team was formed in 1984 and the Kuwait race was the first that it took part in.

Iraq claims Arab tennis

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq won the singles, doubles and team events in the four-day Arab Youth Tennis Championship which ended here Saturday. Iraq's INA news agency reported.

Tunisia finished second, Palestine and Jordan third and Saudi Arabia fourth in the event.

Gadusek ousted from players tennis

DELRAY BEACH, Florida (R) — Thirteen-year-old tennis prodigy Mary Jo Fernandez scored a shock third round victory over 11th-seeded Bonnie Gadusek in the \$1.8 million International Players Championship Saturday.

"It's the best win I've had and the furthest I've got in a tournament," said the precocious American after her 7-6, 7-6 win in her fourth professional event.

Fernandez, who took the U.S. girls' 12-year-old title three years ago when she was 10, added: "Three wins don't change my plans. I'm staying amateur because school is more important."

She woo the tiebreaks against 21-year-old Gadusek by the scores of 7-5 and 7-3.

Two other teenagers, 14-year-old Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina and 15-year-old Steffi Graf of West Germany, also won their third round matches in this 13-day event.

Sabatini posted a 6-3, 6-1 victory over Kim Shaefer of the U.S. who had upset Manuela Maleeva

of Bulgaria in the second round. Graf eliminated Catherine Tanvier of France 6-3, 7-5.

Sabatini, speaking through an interpreter, said: "I'm suddenly discovering players who were names in the papers to me are real people and I'm not afraid of them. Our new 'baby group' is refreshing and good for women's tennis."

Graf, who last year won a car that is sitting at home until she is old enough to drive and then last summer captured the women's demonstration Olympic tennis tournament, took the first set on a service break in the opening game of the match and then recovered from 0-3 to win the second.

Top seeds Martina Navratilova of the U.S. and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia also went through to the fourth round, but sixth-seeded Johan Kriek of the U.S. and seventh seed Joakim Nystrom of Sweden were beaten.

Navratilova, who has lost only seven games in three matches, routed Catherine Suire of France,

6-1, 6-2, while Lendl beat Victor Pecci of Paraguay 6-2, 6-4.

But Nystrom went down to unknown American Marc Flur 1-6, 6-3, 6-4. Flur gained entry into the main draw as a 'lucky loser' to fill a vacancy after losing in the qualifying event.

Kriek, a South African who now lives in Florida, was upset by Sammy Giammatia of the U.S. 6-2, 7-6.

Second-seeded Chris Evert Lloyd defeated fellow American Alycia Moulton 6-3, 6-2. Moulton battled to 3-3 after losing the first three games of the match, but then Evert Lloyd ran off the next three games for the set. She then opened up a 4-1 lead and coasted to victory in the second.

Ninth seed Yannick Noah of France went through to the fourth round, winning 12 of the last 14 games in beating Tom Gullikson of the U.S. 7-5, 6-1.

Noah fell behind 1-4 in the first set, but then took control, winning the last six games of the match.

Budd sets Commonwealth record

COSFORD, England (AP) — South African-born running star Zola Budd set a new British and Commonwealth record for the 3,000 metres Saturday on her international indoor debut for Britain against West Germany.

Budd beat second placed Brigit Schmidt of West Germany by 19 seconds to win in 8 mins. 56.13. But her time was nearly nine seconds outside the world best set last month by Mary Decker-Slaney, the American track star who was involved in a dramatic clash of legs with the barefoot Budd at the Los Angeles Olympic Games last summer.

Budd, aged 18, took British citizenship last year because South Africa is banned from international sport over its policy of racial separation.

Running in British colours at Los Angeles, she clashed with her idol, Decker-Slaney, in the final of 3,000 metres and after the collision the American crashed out of the race while Budd ran on to finish a disappointing seventh.

Budd's victory here against modest opposition followed a 1,500 metres success on the same track two weeks ago when she also broke the British indoor record. She has won 12 successive races in Britain since arriving from South Africa last spring.

Against two West Germans and another British runner, Budd immediately opened up a gap which increased to 70 metres by the half way stage.

Over the opening few laps she was running at world record pace. But with the other three runners unable to put pressure on her, Budd slowed and was only two tenths of a second inside the old British record.

She said later: "My main objective was to run 8 mins. 50 secs. I started a bit fast, but sometimes it is good to start fast because it is easier to slow down than to go quicker later in a race."

"I'm very pleased to get this record, but I found it hard over the

last six laps."

Budd's victory helped Britain beat West Germany for the first time in five years in an indoor international. The men's score was Britain 71 and 1/2 to West Germany's 65 and 1/2 while the British women won 63-53.

Among the West German successes in other women's events, Sabine Braun won the 60 metres hurdles with a time of 8.34 seconds. Louise Bensch captured the 200 metres in 24.37 secs., and Heike Redetsky cleared 1.91 metres to win the high jump.

In men's events Axel Harries won the 800 metres, surprising the favoured British runner, Iken Billy, with a late dash to the line. His winning time was 1 min. 48.75.

In the 400 metres, won in 46.93 secs. by Britain's Todd Bennett, West Germany's Klaus Just went close to pulling off another surprise victory in the absence of European record holder Erwin Skamrah.

Kasparov-Karpov duel takes on new edge

MOSCOW (R) — Garry Kasparov, once thought doomed to a humiliating 6-0 defeat at the hands of world champion Anatoly Karpov, takes up his position at the chess board Monday with new hope fired by three successive wins.

Karpov, who has not won a game since he established a commanding 5-0 lead on November 24, appears to be showing the effects of the gruelling marathon, already the longest in history and now entering its sixth month.

The champion blamed his defeat Saturday on his concentration being upset by the shift on venue from the prestigious Hall of Columns in Central Moscow to the Hotel Sport out in the suburbs, chess sources said.

The facts however are that Kasparov has suddenly taken two games in a row, including one

from the disadvantageous position of playing black, the chess equivalent of a tennis service-break, and that was before the change of venue.

Nonetheless, both champion and challenger have grounds to feel that the world is losing interest now that they have been pitted to swap chandeliers and marble walls for the anonymous surroundings of a suburban high-rise hotel.

However, the sudden turnaround in the challenger's performance may revive public interest in the game and inspire fans to make the long trek out to the bleak, snow-covered part of Moscow that has now become the focus of world chess.

Comparatively early in the match, about two months ago, sources in Kasparov's camp defended the long series of draws

condemned by the audience as "anti-chess" as legitimate tactics in an inevitable war of attrition.

"These two men are the best in the world. The only way one is going to win is by outlasting the other," one Kasparov supporter said.

Karpov, 33, is physically more fit than the robust 21-year-old Kasparov, who plays football while the champion is more interested in his stamp collection.

As Kasparov looks increasingly like being back in the match with a fighting chance, the pressure is now more than ever on Karpov to secure the single victory he needs.

Under current rules, thought likely to be changed before the next world championship, the winner is the first to achieve six clear wins with draws, of which there have been 40 in the current contest.

Zarqa promised minister's support

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Youth Hani Al Khasawneh Sunday promised to give support to the Zarqa Development Corporation (ZDC) to enable it to carry out its various projects.

Addressing a meeting with ZDC leaders at his office the minister said that soccer games will be organised at Al Hussein Sports City and in Zarqa and their proceeds will benefit ZDC's projects.

At the meeting, the ZDC's board of directors briefed the minister on the corporation's programmes and

activities which include the establishment of playgrounds, libraries and parks in Zarqa.

Mr. Mohammad Jamil Abu Al Tayyeb, Director General of the Youth Welfare Organisation (YWO) announced a donation of JD 5,000 to ZDC to enable it to carry out maintenance at municipal playgrounds in Zarqa.

Chairman of the ZDC's board of directors Dr. Tayseer Amari spoke at the meeting voicing appreciation to the minister and the YWO.

JSIA members to get 50 per cent discount on Alia flights

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of the Jordanian Sports Information Association (JSIA) will have a 50 per cent discount on Alia, the Royal Jordanian Airlines' flights, according to Alia President Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz.

Mr. Balqaz was speaking at a meeting with JSIA President Mohammad Jamil Abdul Qader and the members of the association.

Discussions during the meeting focused on Alia's role in supporting national sports activities and the association's role in the development of Jordan youth. Mr. Balqaz pledged full support for all national sports squads travelling with Alia in Arab World or abroad.

Mr. Abdul Qader briefed Alia's president on JSIA aims and objectives and the role it plays in the development of sport movement in Jordan and in news covering of youth activities.

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Economy

Reagan seeks fast action on budget

WASHINGTON (R) President Reagan, buoyantly optimistic about the U.S. economy, Saturday urged Congress to act quickly on proposed 1986 budget cuts and promised to push hard this year for tax reform, enterprise zones and a sub-minimum wage for youths.

But opposition Democrats, in their reply to Mr. Reagan's regular Saturday radio broadcast, accused the president of failing to acknowledge economic weak spots by "glossing over the raging economic firestorm" in U.S. agriculture.

"Either he does not know or care or both about a major economic catastrophe happening now" in rural America, said Senator James Exon, a Nebraska Democrat who delivered his party's response.

Rebutting congressional critics who said last Wednesday's State of the Union address did not emphasize the need to reduce the national deficit, Mr. Reagan said: "The single best deficit programme is an all-out push for economic growth."

He reprimanded unnamed "old familiar voices telling us to slow down, prepare to slash the defence budget and raise taxes all in the name of reducing projected budget deficits."

"Well those arguments were rejected on Nov. 6," election day, Mr. Reagan said.

He failed to mention that among the strongest advocates of reduced defence spending and increased taxes to reduce the deficit, now over \$200 billion, are leading members of his own Republican Party in Congress.

Mr. Reagan seemed to go beyond the Wednesday speech to pleading to "begin working now and pushing hard in Congress and across the country for initiatives like tax simplification, enterprise zones and a youth employment opportunity wage."

Enterprise zones would provide tax and other incentives to entice business into depressed urban neighbourhoods.

Mr. Reagan voiced confidence that if Congress "works with us to a spirit of cooperation and compromise we can bring out budget under control without damaging the economy or endangering the national security."

But he also blamed Congress for thwarting his efforts to reduce the bureaucracy through personnel cuts.

"Our managers could get the job done just as well with fewer employees but their hands are tied," he said.

In his reply, Mr. Exon appealed for Mr. Reagan's active support in solving problems faced by U.S. agriculture that are "ostial and not just temporary."

He added: "These difficulties did not arise out of greed or massive speculation by family-sized farmers. The causes are tragically simple: Low prices, high production costs and mismanaged government policies that have, among other factors, destroyed international markets."

A major factor is dwindling U.S. food exports due to a record high dollar and unfair subsidies by foreign governments to their food producers, Mr. Exon said.

"Foreign governments through high subsidies and import barriers have devastated our farmers chances of competing fairly in the international marketplace," he said.

Sudan decides new exchange policy

KHARTOUM (R) — Commercial banks in Sudan are to introduce a floating exchange rate among new measures to halt the slide of the country's currency, Finance and Economic Planning Minister Abdul Rahman Abdul Wahab said.

He told Reuters the floating rate, existing alongside the fixed official rate, is intended to attract into the banking sector an estimated \$500 million annually in remittances from Sudanese workers abroad.

Previously, the remittances were exchanged at private currency shops whose licenses were withdrawn last Thursday when the central bank accused them of speculation.

The minister said in an interview Saturday night that the new measures would be officially announced this week.

The Sudanese pound, officially valued at 1.3 to the dollar, dropped on the free market from three to the dollar in early January to 4.40 to the dollar last week.

Mr. Abdul Wahab said commercial banks would have the same freedom as private dealers used to have. "We do not intend to intervene in any way unless we feel there is enough evidence that what is happening in the market is not justified by supply and demand," he said.

However, the minister said banks would have to sell dollars according to new central bank guidelines.

They will be allowed to open letters of credit against their reserves according to set priorities of imports. Top priority will be given to essential food commodities and agricultural and industrial imports.

Mr. Abdul Wahab said Sudan was in the process of finalising an agreement with Saudi Arabia, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Netherlands to set up a multi-million dollar oil facility to ease the country's chronic shortage of petroleum products.

Sudan would draw from the fund as it needs to import petroleum products, replenishing it with export earnings. "Eventually, it will refinance itself," said the minister, who put Sudan's 1985 oil import bill at \$360 million.

He said Sudan would contribute \$175 million to the fund in 1985, USAID \$80 million and the Netherlands a token \$5 million.

Only the Netherlands had paid its share and the Saudi contribution was still being negotiated, he said.

"If the oil facility works, it will release a lot of our export earnings to meet our obligations to the outside world, including the International Monetary Fund (IMF)," he added.

Sudan owes the IMF over \$800 million, and a 1984 standby loan was suspended after the country failed to pay arrears.

Mr. Abdul Wahab described Sudan as being in a "catch 22" situation whereby other major donors have frozen aid needed to pay the arrears, pending a new IMF agreement which in turn depends on meeting arrears.

"We hope the oil facility will enable us to meet the arrears and unlock the situation. If that is not the case, we won't have the key to unlock anything," he said.

Sudan plans to finance its share of the facility from cotton revenues, which were \$302 million last year.

Bankers take crash course in Islamic finance

KARACHI (R) — Foreign bankers in Pakistan are taking a crash course in Islamic finance with their teachers not textbooks to tell them how to do business without charging interest.

As part of the military government's drive to enforce Islamic law here, all banks on Jan. 1 had to start switching over to the new system which brands one of banking's traditional functions — lending money for a fee — a sin.

Pakistani bankers had some idea of how to come to grips with the new order, but the foreigners had to start from scratch.

"In no other country in the Muslim World has a government tried to impose the Islamic system totally," Mr. R. G. L. Barnes, manager of Grindlays Bank, one of 17 foreign banks here, told Reuters.

Traditional banking will be banned from July 1 and the foreign banks, which account for 10 per cent of all banking business in Pakistan, will have to try to operate within the new system, according to Mr. Rudolf Gebert, a spokesman for the overseas banks.

The three U.S. banks here, Bank of America, Chase Manhattan and Citibank, originally, thought American laws barring banks from holding equity in customers' operations would close off more avenues of Islamic finance to them.

But Mr. Gebert, who is also manager of Bank of America here, said they now felt they could still work within the system. "I don't think any bank seriously considered pulling out, but that can't be excluded in the future."

Islamic banking, based on the Koran's condemnation of interest as exploitation, seeks to replace interest with types of trading or investment which do not amount to charging a fee for money lent.

The government of President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, which wants to introduce all-encompassing Islamic laws in place of Pakistan's British-style legal system, announced last June that all new corporate loans would have to be interest-free from Jan. 1.

New personal loans will be switched to an Islamic basis from April 1 and savings deposits from July 1. Old loans and accounts can continue until maturity on an interest basis.

Although they praise the government for flexibility in devising Islamic forms of finance, several foreign bankers interviewed here complained that the new system

was introduced too quickly, with some laws governing it not announced until Dec. 31 and several aspects still unclear.

The form of Islamic finance the banks find easiest to use is "murabahah" or mark-up, in which they buy an item for a customer rather than give him a loan for it. They then sell him the item over time with a mark-up taken as their profit.

"This is just interest under another name," said one European banker, who asked not to be named. "We can live with this very easily."

The next step is more complicated, though, because the core of Islamic economic thinking is that the lender must share both the profits and the losses of an investment.

Out of this comes "mudarabah," a sort of venture capital company in which the bank provides the capital to be managed by others for a fixed profit, and joint stock companies called "musharikah."

Both these entail more risk than traditional lending and several foreign banks appear reluctant to sink too much money into them.

Bank deposits will be on a profit-and-loss sharing basis, with savers earning their cut of the bank's profits from its investments with their money rather than a fixed interest rate.

They also risk sharing the loss if the investments go sour.

Since they must now evaluate projects before granting loans and monitor them to ensure they succeed, the banks expect an increase of up to 15 per cent in costs as they hire more auditors and lawyers. One banker called them "the real winners in all this."

They must also keep two sets of books, for Islamic deals within the country and for their interest-based business abroad. Reports back to headquarters will have to be "translated" from Koranic terms used here to categories more recognisable at home.

And since the laws governing Islamic finance have not all been issued yet, some bankers said they feared being penalised later for making deals that might appear legal now. "We have been moving along without a legal umbrella," one said.

The bankers said it was too early to say whether Islamisation would cause a drop in business but many said that foreign firms considering investing in Pakistan now were probably holding back to see how the transition works.

Iran to apportion imports to oil sales

TEHRAN (R) — Iran has set up a committee to work out and implement a scheme under which imports from other countries would be limited to half the value of oil they buy from Iran, informed Iranian sources said Sunday.

The plan, proposed by the oil ministry, aims among other things to recapture some of the share of the oil market Iran has lost during its 52-months-old war with Iraq.

It has applied to trade with Japan since last year and will now be extended to other countries, mainly Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) members, the sources said.

Japanese traders say they do not like the system, which as well as limiting imports from Japan also requires letters of credit for 180 days instead of the usual 30, at annual interest of six per cent.

The plan is in line with tough statements made recently by senior government officials.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told a press conference Saturday Iran would reconsider its trade with those countries which did not carry on balanced trade with it.

Central Bank Governor Mohsen Nourbakhsh said last week Iran was opening letters of credit only when balance in trade with the country concerned was maintained.

"We mean business this time," a government official said.

The sources said a decision on how to balance trade with West Germany, a source of contention between Tehran and Bonn, could be expected next week.

Iran set up a committee late last year to study trade with the European Community and Japan. The move was aimed mainly at redressing the imbalance with West Germany, whose exports to Iran in 1983 were five times imports from it.

West German exports to Iran fell 14 per cent last year, but West German sources attributed that to Iran's general economic situation rather than any specific decision.

The Iranian sources said that under the new scheme there would be one committee for all trading partners rather than separate ones for each.

Iranian oil sources said Iran's oil exports were less than one million barrels per day (b/d) last month. The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries allows it a production quota of 2.3 million b/d, which after domestic consumption leaves about 1.7 million b/d for export.

But Iraqi air strikes on shipping using Iranian ports have made Tehran's customers reluctant to buy Iranian oil.

Arab Bank to open branch in China

AMMAN (R) — China has agreed to let Jordan's biggest commercial bank, Arab Bank Limited, open an offshore branch in China, bank chairman Mr. Abdul Majid Shoman said Sunday.

Mr. Shoman told Reuters he would visit China, probably in the second half of this year, to follow up the matter.

Arab Bank, whose assets in 1983 totalled 2.85 billion dinars (about \$7 billion), opened a representative office in Peking last year.

Banking sources said China, which has allowed more than 60 foreign bank representative offices in Peking, is expected to allow about six foreign banks to open offshore branches in free trading zones in some coastal cities this year.

China is involved in a number of development projects in Jordan.

IBM poised to introduce most powerful computer

BOSTON (R) — International Business Machines (IBM) is poised to announce its most powerful computer yet, industry analysts said.

IBM announced a double capacity disk drive last week, a very high-powered storage device. As a result, analysts advanced forecasts of the long-awaited Sierra's launch date. Some say there are "strong indications" it could be as soon as Tuesday.

Sierra's introduction is expected to be the major event in the computer industry this year. Mr. Jay Stevens, computer analyst with Dean Witter Reynolds, predicted the Sierra "will permanently change the nature of the large processor market."

It is also expected to put pressure on IBM's rivals in the mainframe computer market — Burroughs Corp., Sperry Corp. (formerly Univac), NCR Corp., Control Data Corp. and Honeywell Inc.

Gartner group estimates that IBM — the world's largest computer company — now controls 76 per cent of the U.S. mainframe market, generally considered the most profitable area of the industry.

Mainframes are systems which typically support over 120 users and cost well over \$1 million.

According to International Data Corp. of the worldwide computer shipments of \$43.9 billion in 1983, 33 per cent were mainframes.

Currently, IBM's most powerful mainframe is the 3084, which can perform 28.4 million instructions per second (MIPS).

Observers estimate the Sierra range's capability as between 30 and 39 MIPS.

Price per MIPS is expected to range from \$150,000 to \$200,000. IBM's mainframes now sell for \$175,000 to \$193,000 per MIPS, but analysts say the Sierra cannot be directly compared as it will be so much more powerful.

It could also be more compact than its predecessors, as it is expected to pack all its power into two central processors paired together inside one "box", Mr. Stevens said. The 3084 has four processors in two boxes.

IBM's profit margins, already among the highest in the computer industry, are expected to improve on the Sierra, because its technology is expected to require fewer parts.

To minimise impact on existing lines, IBM is expected to introduce top-of-the-line models well before low-end machines.

JAL to fly non-stop over USSR to Europe

MOSCOW (R) — Japan Air Lines (JAL) are to begin direct flights across Siberia from Tokyo to Europe in April 1986, the first airline to operate a regular non-stop service across the Soviet Union, Japanese sources said Sunday.

The new service, under the terms of a three-year bilateral overflight agreement signed Saturday, will cut approximately two and a half hours off the present 14-hour flight time between Japan and Western Europe with a stopover in Moscow. The Scandinavian airline SAS also operates regular flights to Tokyo across Siberia, but with a stopover in Moscow. Under the new agreement, JAL would not cut back its Moscow service, but complement it with four non-stop flights a week by Boeing 747 aircraft. A decision had not yet been taken as to which European cities would be served, the sources said. The present fastest route between Tokyo and Western Europe is 13 hours across the north pole with a refuelling stop at Anchorage in Alaska. These flights are already heavily booked.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, FEB. 11, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The morning finds it easy for you to plan the coming activities of importance and to add some unusual note, but then after lunch you find that some problem arises.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) In the morning find a better way of using your practical talents so that you can increase your income, then later rest up.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) A good morning for coming to a better understanding with an associate by having a wise discussion.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You can cement better relations with a partner if you take a firm stand and do not listen to co-workers.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can gain the aid of good pals in the morning, but forget your worries later and make big headway.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Have a secret talk with a bigwig and garner the information you require at this time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get together with good friends in going after new interests and you succeed very quickly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study how you can gain greater prestige in the morning, and then take the right steps in that direction.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Talking over financial affairs with kin is wise in the morning; but later avoid some group.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will show many fine talents and particularly where the most up-to-date matters are concerned. Later there will be the desire to be more conservative, so teach to combine the old with the new and then much success is possible during the lifetime.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris

"He broke a lot of hearts when he married me. My mother's, my father's, my grandmother's..."

JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LUF AW
WUS AQ
DAY MAL
DEL JA

WHAT THERE SEEMED TO BE IN THAT NOISY COURTROOM.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

ANSWER: MORE "OOPS" THAN "YES"

Yesterday's Jumble: LINER FAITH ORPHAN ANKLET
Answer: What a snowball might be — A "PANE" KILLER

Peanuts

SOME OF US DON'T HAVE TO GO TO SCHOOL...
SOME OF US CAN JUST HANG AROUND ALL DAY...
JOE GLOAT!

Mutt 'n' Jeff

JUST TELL THE TRUTH, JEFF! THEY CAN'T PIN ANYTHING ON YOU!
I DIDN'T DO IT!
IT'S A LIE DETECTOR TEST! WE'LL JUST ASK YOU A FEW SIMPLE QUESTIONS!
NOW... ARE YOU NAPOLEON?
NO!
IT SAYS HE'S LYING!

Andy Capp

ME AND MUM WILL SEE YOU AT THE GROUND, PET
WAIT FOR ME, FLO!
SHE ONCE ASKED HIM IF SHE'D PUT HIM OFF IF SHE WATCHED HIM PLAY, AND HE SAID SHE WOULDN'T. SHE'S BEEN GOING EVER SINCE TO SEE IF SHE COULD

THE Daily Crossword

by James E. Hinkle, Jr.

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Obstruct	4 Water holder	42 Lights
5 Baseball immortal	5 Exchanged for money	43 Dispatch
9 Interrogative	6 Certain acid	44 Batted
14 Gully in arid area	7 Ology	45 Red Sox park
15 Baseball brothers name	8 Batter's play	46 Angry
16 Zealous	9 "In God"	47 Up
17 Touched down	10 "Bell"	48 Faithful
18 O'Casey or Connery	11 Urge	49 Wilkes
19 Detroit player	12 Superman	50 Satellite
20 Substitute	13 Scoreboard item	
21 A soft	21 Brinker	
22 Ab	22 Remove	
23 City of wonder	23 Pen point	
24 Hic, hic, hic	24 "What fun"	
25 Someone heading home	25 Catcher's need	
26 On the — (unrestrained)	26 Booc or Sackel	
27 Call — day	27 Formerly	
28 City of wonder	28 Formerly	
29 Enter on a course of action	29 Provender	
30 Succeeded in a way	30 Mill, acronym	
31 Orlie and cardinal	31 See 40	
32 Indiana's Bob	32 "Vive —"	
33 White animal	33 Super	
34 Bill of fare	34 Scoreboard item	
35 Sp. aunt	35 Remove	
36 Tarrapin	36 Pen point	
37 Gam	37 "What fun"	
38 Stellan night	38 Catcher's need	
39 Whodunnit name	39 Booc or Sackel	
40 Adolescence	40 Formerly	
41 Optimistic	41 Provender	
42 Dawn	42 Mill, acronym	
1 Trade	43 See 40	
2 Ankabones	44 "Vive —"	
3 Horse dally	45 There to	
	46 Tiberian	

U.S. urges allies to back Star Wars programme

MUNICH, West Germany (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger urged West European leaders Sunday to back President Reagan's vision of nuclear peace through space-based defence.

"The Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) may offer the only hope of achieving our ultimate goal, the complete elimination of nuclear weapons," he said in a prepared speech read to the Wehrkunde (defence studies) Conference in Munich by Assistant U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Perle.

Mr. Weinberger's planned attendance at the two-day conference was held up when his flight from London was delayed by bad weather, conference Chairman Ewald von Kleist said.

The speech dismissed fears that the anti-missile system, now the subject of multi-billion-dollar research, would help shield the United States from nuclear attack but leave Western Europe exposed and weaken Washington's commitment to NATO.

"The real issue, you might argue, is whether Europeans will become hostages to the Soviet Union as the United States retreats to an illusory fortress across the ocean," Mr. Perle told 150 senior NATO politicians and defence experts.

"There is no fortress, and there can be no retreat."

"We should bear in mind that the strategic defence we are wor-

king on would be equally effective against the SS-20 and other intermediate range Soviet missiles."

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told the conference Saturday that West European NATO allies should join the U.S. research.

But he made clear that it would have to help guard Europe from shorter-range missiles such as the SS-20 as well as protecting the U.S. from intercontinental missiles.

"There must be no zones with different security in the alliance. Europe's security must not be decoupled from that of the U.S.," Mr. Kohl said.

French Defence Minister Charles Hernu expressed deep misgivings about the space defence project, saying it could contribute to a new and dangerous offensive arms race.

But Mr. Weinberger's speech said even an imperfect "Star Wars" defence would promote stability by making an enemy unsure if a surprise missile attack would be successful.

In remarks apparently intended to answer criticism of the U.S. project, Mr. Weinberger said a "Star Wars" defence could help in concluding agreement with the Soviet

Union on arms cuts.

He said a country might be able to conceal 1,000 nuclear weapons, but even against a limited space defence, that might not be enough to blackmail or disarm an opponent.

"Thus, defences could serve as a policeman for the most ambitious arms reduction proposals," he said.

Moscow has said that continued SDI research could wreck next month's U.S.-Soviet arms talks in Geneva on space weapons, strategic nuclear arms and intermediate range missiles — Western Europe's chief concern.

Mr. Weinberger's speech said an effective defence using lasers and other advanced technology to destroy incoming missiles, even if imperfect at first, could raise the cost of an attack enough to make an aggressor uncertain he would win.

"It would especially reduce the advantage of preemptive attack, and thus promote stability."

Finally, it would provide insurance against a world in which the Soviets — and the Soviets alone — could brandish their sword from behind the protective shield they are continuing to develop," Mr. Weinberger said.

Meanwhile an official Reagan administration document to be published soon says the Soviet Union is trying to turn Central America into a satellite of the East

ern Bloc, the New York Times reported Saturday.

It said the paper was prepared as part of an effort to persuade Congress to approve the administration's new aid package for the war-torn region.

In an introduction to the document, Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger cites papers seized during the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983 which quote Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko as saying Central America is ripe for revolutionary expansionism.

The document, the latest of several alleging Soviet and Cuban interference in Central America, says the two nations are actively promoting Communist revolution in every country in Central America, apart from Costa Rica, and also in Colombia.

The Times quotes the document as saying that El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Colombia appear to be high on Cuba's list of priorities.

Nicaragua, the document says, is already a virtual Soviet satellite — a charge the government there has repeatedly denied.

The administration's budget proposal, announced last week, requests more than \$1.1 billion in military and economic aid for Central America. In addition, President Reagan has urged Congress to renew aid to guerrillas fighting the government in Nicaragua.



MULTIPLE COLLISION: A dead truck driver lies on his crushed traction engine while fire brigades try to rescue a survivor of a multiple collision on the West German highway near Ingolstadt Saturday. Six people died in a 30-car pile-up when a cargo carrier with pigs turned over (AP wirephoto)

Hawke: U.S.-Australia ties strong

LOS ANGELES (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Saturday night the fact that the United States will not use bases in Australia to monitor MX missile tests does not diminish the ANZUS pact or U.S. relations with Canberra in particular.

Mr. Hawke, on his way home from talks in Washington with President Reagan and other senior U.S. officials, also denied Australia had been forced to make some compensating concession for not monitoring the tests.

"This is not the way in which affairs between two sovereign but aligned democracies are conducted," he said.

"In both security and trade areas there is a sound basis for partnership between Australia and the United States," Mr. Hawke said.

In a speech prepared for delivery to the Australian-American chamber of Commerce here, Mr. Hawke declared:

"The United States decision to monitor MX testing in the South Pacific without the use of Australian support facilities has in no way diminished the ANZUS alliance and, specifically, the alliance relationship between Australia and the United States."

Australia, New Zealand and the United States form the 34-year-old ANZUS alliance, binding them to recognise that an armed attack in the Pacific area on any of them would be a danger to the other two.

But Mr. Hawke said four days ago that he intended, because of

public concern, to undo an agreement to allow U.S. planes monitoring the intercontinental missile tests to use Australian bases.

Earlier, New Zealand had refused to allow a U.S. warship to stop at one of its ports next month because the United States refuses as a matter of policy to say which of its vessels carry nuclear weapons.

Referring to the Australian bases decision, Mr. Hawke said:

"Any assumption, as has been falsely made by some, that the Australian government has been, or will be, required to make some compensating concession, some blanket endorsement of strategic doctrine, some quid pro quo, regarding the monitoring of MX testing, is entirely without foundation."

"None was asked and none was given."

Turning to trade issues, Mr. Hawke said it was clear from his talks in Washington that both countries were concerned that the system of open, multilateral trading was being threatened.

"As the United States moves to get its own farm policy in order, it may be tempted to take more aggressive retaliatory action against the policies in Europe and Japan that have been so damaging to world agricultural trade," Mr. Hawke said.

"We understand and share the U.S. frustrations," he said.

"We are particularly concerned that U.S. efforts to resolve trade problems with Europe or Japan should be within principles of a

multilateral trading system," he added.

"Special bilateral deals which exclude competitive suppliers from third countries would cut across our shared objectives and endeavours in world trade."

Peacock to face Hawke

Meanwhile in Sydney Australian opposition leader Andrew Peacock has cancelled a European trip to confront Prime Minister Bob Hawke over his handling of the country's defence policies, party officials said Sunday.

Mr. Peacock was to have met British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in London and have talks with envoys from both Western and Communist countries in Geneva on a seven-day tour starting Sunday.

Mr. Hawke returns Monday from talks in the United States to face criticism from his own Labour Party over the way he originally agreed to provide logistical support for U.S. testing of the controversial MX missile.

News of Australia's assistance in the proposed tests broke just before he left on his overseas tour and he then reversed the decision on his way to Washington after a series of telephone calls to advisers in Australia, party sources said.

Mr. Hawke is now in trouble with his left wing who have said the original agreement was made secretly and without consultation.

India-Sri Lanka ties reach new low

NEW DELHI (R) — Relations between India and Sri Lanka took a new nosedive Sunday when a Zaire Airways plane carrying arms to Colombo was detained in India for 24 hours and newspapers reported the breakdown of talks to settle the Tamil crisis.

The United News of India (UNI) also said a new influx of 1,500 Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka had reached India and there was another incident in the two nations' fishing dispute.

Mystery surrounded the emergency landing and detention in the South Indian city of Trivandrum of the DC-8 cargo plane carrying 16 tonnes of Portuguese-made arms and ammunition.

Trivandrum police identified the crew as two Britons, a Belgian and a Syrian. "The crew of the Zaire Airways plane were not put under arrest but lodged in a hotel near the airport while investigations went on," a spokesman told Reuters.

Police said the plane took off from the Jordanian capital of Amman but was forced to land at Trivandrum, 350 km short of its destination, Colombo, when fuel ran out because of the heavy

cargo. After being held for 24 hours the plane was given permission to leave and took off for Colombo.

The incident cast a shadow over talks in New Delhi between Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lankan Security Minister Lalith Athulathududi on the Tamil dispute. Mr. Gandhi's first major foreign policy test since his election two months ago.

Newspapers said there was no progress and Mr. Athulathududi returned to Sri Lanka Sunday, a day earlier than scheduled.

India's External Affairs Ministry tersely described the talks as "useful" and made no mention of reports in Sri Lankan newspapers that Colombo sought a meeting between Mr. Gandhi and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene.

India and Sri Lanka are at odds over the activities of Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate state in northern Sri Lanka. There are 2.5 million Tamils in Sri Lanka's Sinhalese majority population of 15 million.

The Zaire Airways plane later landed in Colombo.

An airport spokesman said the plane was diverted to the airforce

section immediately it landed at Katunayake International Airport. Strict security was enforced and no outsiders were allowed in the airport area.

A Defence Ministry official told Reuters the plane carried mainly ammunition for security forces fighting separatist Tamil guerrillas in the north and east of the country.

Meanwhile the U.S. government has approved a grant of about \$160,000 for military training of Sri Lankans in the U.S., a Colombo newspaper reported Sunday.

The Sunday Observer, quoting its New York correspondent, said the grant made for the 1986 financial year beginning next October was being given under the U.S. International Military Education and Training (IMET) programme.

The 1986 allocation is the highest given to Sri Lanka so far under the IMET programme, the newspaper said, adding that last year's assistance totalled \$150,000.

The Observer added: "No sales of U.S. military equipment to Sri Lanka were projected in the defence budget released on Monday."

Poll says Thatcher's popularity at low ebb

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's popularity is at its lowest ebb since before the 1982 Falklands War, according to a poll published Sunday.

On the eve of Mrs. Thatcher's 10th anniversary as leader of the Conservative Party, the results of a Mori Poll in the Sunday Times, newspaper show 51 per cent of those polled thought she was "out of touch with ordinary people".

Only 34 per cent thought she was "good in a crisis" compared with 62 per cent during the last general election, campaign in 1983, while 34 per cent voted her a capable leader, the lowest rating since June, 1981. She has been prime minister since 1979.

The poll said the popularity of Conservative and opposition Labour parties was now running level at 37 per cent, representing an eight point swing to Labour since Mrs. Thatcher was re-elected in 1983.

Jaruzelski to visit India despite spy scandal

WARSAW (R) — Polish Communist leader Wojciech Jaruzelski will start an official visit to India on Monday despite the reported expulsion of a Polish diplomat accused of involvement in India's spy scandal.

The visit will be his first to a non-Communist country since he became party first secretary and prime minister at the height of the Solidarity labour crisis in 1981.

Government spokesman Jerzy Urban has refused to comment on

reports by Indian newspapers that a Polish diplomat in New Delhi was one of several East Bloc envoys who had been forced to leave India. The affair has been ignored by the Polish press.

The Indian government has also declined to comment on the reports.

Gen. Jaruzelski, who visited India 10 years ago when he was defence minister, will have talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and President Zail Singh.

Fresh Vietnamese troops confront Thai forces

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (R) — About 800 Vietnamese troops confronted Thai forces along a one-kilometre stretch of Kampuchea's border Sunday as they tightened a siege of the Khmer Rouge stronghold of Phnom Malai.

Thai military sources said tensions rose in the area seven kilometres south of Aranyaprathet after 23 truckloads of newly-deployed Vietnamese troops built bunkers 200 metres from the actual border.

They said the motive for the

Vietnamese move was unclear, but it followed the failure of Khmer Rouge mortars to halt the Vietnamese advance on their mountainous base.

The Khmer Rouge have fought close-range battles with Vietnamese forces for the past week in outlying areas of Phnom Malai, a 400 square kilometres complex of guerrilla camps and bases.

Thai and Khmer Rouge sources put Vietnamese casualties in the offensive against Phnom Malai in the hundreds, higher than those suffered by the guerrillas.

Congressmen urge postponement of U.S.-Korea summit

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Two U.S. congressmen and other American supporters of Korean dissident leader Kim Dae-Jung called Sunday for postponement of a U.S.-Korean summit meeting in the wake of the "inexcusable use of force" against Mr. Kim's party when it arrived at Seoul Airport Friday.

The American delegation that accompanied Mr. Kim back from two years self-exile in the United States said in a statement that the government of President Chun Doo-Hwan "broke its promise to our government that the return of Mr. Kim Dae-Jung would be a 'trouble-free'."

It said that "given this calculated affront to the American government and people, we recommend that the White House give serious consideration to the postponement" of Mr. Chun's scheduled visit.

The statement was issued by Rep. Edward Feighan, Democrat of Ohio, Rep. Thomas Foglietta, Democrat of Pennsylvania, former U.S. Ambassador to Salvador Robert White and others in the 22-member group that joined Mr. Kim on his return home to resume

his struggle for Democratic change.

The U.S. State Department already has lodged a formal protest and U.S. Ambassador to Seoul Richard L. Walker accused the Seoul government Saturday of violating an agreement concerning Mr. Kim's homecoming, during which police forcibly separated Mr. Kim and his wife from his companions and shoved them into an elevator at Seoul's Kimpo Airport.

The Seoul government has acknowledged that police did push members of Mr. Kim's party, but has denied any "punching and beating" and accused Mr. Kim of assaulting policemen.

The government also has denied that Mr. Kim, who still faces a prison term from a conviction on sedition charges in 1980, is under house arrest. On Sunday, his request to leave home to attend Catholic mass was rejected, aides said.

The delegation's statement also criticized the American ambassador, saying he "has not bot-

hered to ascertain the facts" of the airport incident and has not requested a meeting with Mr. Chun to demand an explanation for the "obviously premeditated brutality."

U.S. embassy spokesman David Fitzgerald, asked about the criticisms leveled at the ambassador, noted that the embassy had sent a note to the foreign ministry seeking an investigation and explanation of the incident, and that the ambassador had met the delegation on Friday and inquired about the members' safety.

The statement by Mr. Kim's supporters Sunday also provided their detailed version of what happened after Mr. Kim and his party left the plane. It said:

"As they passed a place where the gangway took a sharp turn, a phalanx of plainclothesmen leaped out from behind a curtain, locked arms, and forcibly shoved the group back, in the process shoving, pushing and punching several members of the delegation. They separated the main body of the delegation from the small group surrounding Kim Dae-Jung and his wife."

"These men never identified

themselves or communicated in any way what the delegation members were supposed to do despite repeated requests in both English and Korean."

"The small group surrounding Kim Dae-Jung and his wife continued to a waiting area. Another group of 50 to 100 plainclothesmen began pulling the first few people around Mr. Kim away from the group, dragging and knocking Haris Harvey (executive director, North American Coalition for Human Rights in Korea) to the floor, jostling and bruising former Assistant Secretary of State for Human Rights, Patricia Derian, and pushing and shoving Congressman Edward Feighan to one side."

It said that when Mr. Kim, who wished to go through normal entry procedures with his group, refused to enter an elevator, a man in the elevator gave a signal to the plainclothesmen.

"Four men grabbed Congressman Foglietta by the arms and legs and flung him backward on to the floor. Five or six men seized Ambassador White, ripped him away from Kim Dae-Jung and threw him to the floor. Kim Dae-



Kim Dae-Jung

Jung, his wife and two Korean-Americans were forced into the elevator," the statement said.

Mr. Feighan, at a news conference, said the Korean government could have quickly defused anger over the incident by apologising and saying it had been perpetrated by "overzealous policemen concerned with Mr. Kim's safety."

Instead, he said, the government here has made "strident statements harshly criticising the delegation and denying physical abuse."

COLUMN

Mother kills daughter over bad results

KASUKABE, Japan (R) — A 34-year-old woman strangled her daughter because she was doing badly at school and lied about her examination results, police said. They said the woman, whose husband is a police sergeant, confessed to the killing after a police autopsy showed the 11-year-old girl had died of strangulation. The woman told police she was worried because her daughter was not doing well at school and had lied about her results. Police said she told them that when her daughter returned late from school she became hysterical and strangled the child. She has not yet been charged.

China plans to double beer output

BEIJING (R) — China is to double beer production by 1990 to meet growing demand, especially from tourists. The New China News Agency has reported that Peking and local governments were allocating \$780 million to build 18 new breweries and revamp 59 others. The aim was to double output to five billion litres (1.32 billion gallons) by 1990. Three famed mountain resorts, Emel, Lushan and Wutai, are to get new beer suppliers, the agency said. Almost 13 million people visited China last year. Most Chinese beers are Lager-type brews.

Indonesia to use Thai methods to tame elephants

JAKARTA (R) — Two government officials will go to Thailand to learn from Thai mystics how to tame herds of rampaging elephants and put them to work on the farms they now attack in remote parts of Indonesia. Antara News Agency has said. Wild elephants have become a serious problem in Sumatra since large numbers of settlers from overpopulated Java began to convert the dense forests into plantations and paddy fields. Elephants, their natural habitat being destroyed, now raid farms for food, trampling fields, smashing newly-built villages and ruining crops. But Antara quoted conservation chief Djoko Supomo as saying: "As we will have elephant tasters, there is no need for the public to panic." Thai tamers often use centuries-old mystical methods to tame elephants to help farmers to work their land.

Smokers pose cancer threat to non-smokers

LONDON (AP) — Smokers pose a serious cancer threat both to non-smokers and to other smokers in their families, according to a study by three North Carolina scientists published recently in the British medical journal the Lancet. The survey of 778 people, including smokers and non-smokers and those who had had no contact with cancer, found that the risk of cancer increased 40 per cent for those in households where one other person smoked, compared with households where no one smoked or no one else smoked. The cancer risk increased 130 per cent where two other household members smoked and 160 per cent for people who lived with three smokers. Researchers Dale Sandler, Allen Wilcox and Richard Everson of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences in North Carolina's Research Triangle also reported that people exposed as children to smoking parents had a 60 per cent higher risk of cancer than people whose parents did not smoke.

China scraps 'barefoot doctors'

BEIJING (R) — China says it is disbanding the 1.2 million "barefoot doctors" sent out during Chairman Mao's Cultural Revolution to minister to the country's 800 million peasants. Deputy Health Minister Chen Minzhang has said those medical aides who had passed secondary medical examinations would in future be known merely as health workers. Mr. Chen was quoted as saying that the term "barefoot doctor" was invented by former Vice-Premier Zhang Qunliao and other radical leaders at the start of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution. "The meaning of this term was not precise, now we have decided to stop using the name," he added.

GOREN BRIDGE

21 CHARLES GOREN

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TAKE THE EXTRA CHANCE

Both vulnerable, South deals.

NORTH

♠ Q1094

♥ 765

♦ 4

♣ AK953

WEST EAST

♠ 72 ♠ J5

♥ J10 ♥ KQ9842

♦ Q10975 ♦ 5

♣ J864 ♣ Q1072

SOUTH

♠ AK863

♥ A3

♦ AKJ862

♣ Void

The bidding:

South West North East

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

3 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

7 ♠ Pass 6 ♠ Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♣.

We all tend to make plays instinctively. As a result, when this hand

was dealt in a tournament that included a liberal sprinkling of experts, not one managed to make 13 tricks.

Slams in spades were rare, with several pairs reaching a grand slam or an ace-ten such as the above. Note that it does not require any gadget to get to a grand slam — just good common sense bidding.